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THE GREAT DIAMONDS OF THE WORLD.

THE GREAT DIAMONDS OF THE WORLD.

THEIR HISTORY AND ROMANCE.

COLLECTED FROM OFFICIAL, PRIVATE AND OTHER SOURCES,
DURING MANY YEARS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INQUIRY.

BY

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*Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society ; Author of " Precious Stones
and Gems ;" Gold Medallist of the Royal Order of Frederic ;
Holder of a Special Gold Medal from H.M. the King of the Belgians.*

THE MS. OF THE " KOH-I-NŪR " GRACIOUSLY READ & APPROVED BY
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE ACCOUNTS OF THE " PITT " AND THE " EUGENIE " REVISED BY
HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE.,

EDITED AND ANNOTATED BY
JOSEPH HATTON AND A. H. KEANE.

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PREFACE.



HIS book is a romance of truth. The trite proverb that "fact is stranger than fiction," was never better illustrated than it is in the following chapters. Some of the incidents in the imaginary career of Sinbad the Sailor may be accepted as modest facts compared with the histories of several of the great diamonds of the world.

It is true that in the narratives of such stones as the "Koh-i-Nûr," the "Great Mogul," the "Taj-e-Mah," the "Pitt," and other famous gems, fable has crept in, as if to try a bout, in romantic revelation, with fact. Oriental fancy has strewn the lurid history of the diamond with much traditionary gloom ; but human invention is outdone by the reality of human depravity and human woes.

A symbol of power, the diamond has been a talisman of not less influence in the East than the very gods whose temples it has adorned. It has been a factor in tragedies innumerable, supplying the motives of war and rapine, setting father against son, blurring the fair image of virtue, making life a curse where it had been a blessing, and adding new terrors to death. There is no intrigue however deep, no crime however shameful, which you cannot parallel in

the history of famous gems, and no butchery of the brave, no sacrifices of the innocent, have marked the red footsteps of military conquerors with deeper lines of infamy than are to be found in Eastern wars, that have been undertaken for the sake of precious stones and gems.

At the same time it must not be forgotten that the pleasant contrasts of a slave winning his freedom, the monarch accepting stern reverses of fate with dignity, the patient explorer rewarded, and glimpses of a womanhood that is "far above rubies" now and then break in upon the gloom of cruel intrigue and sanguinary wars which belong to the records of so many famous gems. We can only regret that these "rays of sunshine" are not many. It is as if the diamond needed, even in history, a dark background to show up its strangely fascinating hues. It has been a labour of love in the present instance to investigate that dark background, to hunt out its secrets, and to bring them to the light of day. If the result of our researches is half as full of surprises for the reader as it has been for those engaged in the production of this present history of *The Great Diamonds of the World*, then, indeed, have the undersigned and his distinguished collaborators provided some new sensations for the students of the romance of history. In saying this we are not only referring to the two gentlemen whose literary alliance gives additional importance to our labours, but to the kindly aid which has been graciously vouchsafed to us by royal and ministerial pens. During several years past there is hardly a Court in Europe and the East with which we have not been in communication, through Imperial ambassadors, and even directly, for the purpose of procuring trustworthy records of the world's historic diamonds. We have to acknowledge the unvarying courtesy with which our inquiries, some by letter, some by personal application, some through special commissioners sent on long journeys

for the purpose, have been received and answered.* To Her Majesty the Queen for reading our manuscript notes on the "Koh-i-Nûr" we owe our special and humble thanks. Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of the French has been most gracious in revising and correcting several material points in connection with certain gems that belong to the history of the illustrious house that is adorned by her virtues, and made doubly memorable by her sorrows. It was said of the cerulean throne of Koolburga that every prince of the house of Bhamenee made a point of adding to it some rich gems. In these modern days it is considered a greater honour to decorate the history of a blameless life with the jewels of self-sacrifice and duty well performed, than to sit on thrones built up of priceless treasures. It is not in the stories of jewels that the names of Victoria and Eugénie will go down to posterity, but in the record of a great Queen whose heart went out to the widowed and childless guest, and made her sorrows her own.

Respect for the illustrious personages whom we have had occasion to mention, does not permit us to say more in regard to the honour they have conferred upon us; nor would our loyal duty to her Majesty the Queen, as it seems to us, be fairly represented without this acknowledgment, however inadequately expressed, of her gracious condescension. It has been one of the great objects of the life of the undersigned to publish a history of the world's famous diamonds. He owes it to the object he has in view, and not to any personal merit, that he has met with so much courteous encouragement on all hands.

* Mr. G. Skelton Streeter, travelling in India for the purposes of this work, has been able to furnish some valuable information. He is now engaged in exploring the archives of native courts for authoritative drawings and details of the Peacock Throne which was destroyed at Delhi by Nadir Shah in 1702.

In conclusion he earnestly invites corrections of, and additions to, the following chapters. Being properly authenticated, they shall find a place in future editions of a work, which is now earnestly commended to the friendly consideration of critics, who understand the difficulties of such an enterprise ; and to the great Reading Public, which is always generous to those who have something to say that is not unworthy of its attention.

EDWIN W. STREETER.

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THE mystery which surrounds the Diamond is accentuated even in the etymology of the word itself. Acknowledged on all hands to be supreme in beauty over all gems, the manner of its production remains to this day, one of the secrets of Nature's Laboratory. Diamond in the English, and *Diamant* in the French, are both synonymous with *Adamant*, which comes directly from the Greek ἀδάμας, meaning literally the “untamable,”* the “unconquerable.” The ancients properly estimated the character of the stone; and modern *savants*, who, standing upon the

* In the word *untamable* we have the exact etymological equivalent of the Greek, *un*, answering to *a*, originally, and *tame*, to δαμάω. with which compare the Latin *domc*, whence “dominus, domina” and the French *dame*. Few would, at first sight suspect that both “Madame” and her “Diamants” derive by many devious paths from a common original Aryan root, *dam* to tame. The French form soon became differentiated into *aymant*, *aimant*, in the sense of *magnet* or *loadstone*, traditionally associated in many ways with the Diamond. It was also Latinized as *diamas* instead of *adamas*, by mediæval writers, whence Vincent de Beauvais' remark that “Hic a quibusdam *diamas* dicitur,” (In *Speculum Natural*, VIII. c. 40.) From these writers it passed, no doubt, into the vernacular German, whence Walter von der Vogelwiede's *diemant* and Luther's *demant*. This explains the two forms *Diamant* and *Demant* current in modern German.

mountain tops of Science, have explored the sun itself, can tell us but little more of this splendid production of its creative rays, than is indicated in the Greek. It is to the cutter that we owe the revelation of its loveliness, the development of that radiance which transcends all other gems, as the graces of Venus transcend those of all the other goddesses of Olympus. Although the word is found in the oldest Greek records, the substance itself was unknown in Europe until comparatively recent times. In Homer, Adamas occurs only as a personal name; in Hesiod, Pindar and the Trajics it is used as signifying either any hard weapon, or a metal, such as steel or an alloy of gold and steel. Even Theophrastus, successor of Aristotle, and author of a short treatise, still extant, on Precious Stones, makes only one casual allusion to the Adamas, which, however, cannot have meant the true Diamond,* as he does not include it in his list of gems. His treatise was composed 300 B.C., after which no further distinct allusion to the Diamond occurs until we come to the Latin poet and astronomer, Manilius, who flourished in the first century of the new era. In the fourth book of the poem entitled *Astronomicon*, by this writer, occurs the line "Sic Adamas punctum lapidis pretiosior auro," which is supposed to contain the earliest indubitable reference to the true Diamond, which is here spoken of as "more precious than gold." Some writers have

* C. W. King thinks it may have been the Emery-stone (The Natural History of Precious Stones, p. 41). Yet Plato had already been using the same word apparently to indicate the Sapphire: Χρυσοῦ δὲ ὄζος διὰ πυκνότητα σχληρότατον ὃν καὶ μελανθεν, Ἀδάμας ἐχλήθη. "But the germ of gold, extremely hard, through its density, and of a dark tint, has been called Adamos," *Timæus*, 59.

doubted whether this Adamas of the Romans was anything more than a Sapphire ; but the question is set at rest by the accurate description of Pliny, who was probably a contemporary of Manilius, and who speaks of the Indian gem as colorless and transparent, with polished facets and six angles, ending either as a pyramid with a sharp point, or with two points, like two whipping-tops joined together at their base. The colourless nature of the stone shows that it was not a sapphire, while the "six angles" necessarily imply the octahedron, which is the primary form of the perfectly crystallized Diamond, and suggests no resemblance to the sapphire.

None of the stones known to the ancients seem to have been of any importance as regards size. In the above quoted passage from Manilius, the adamas is a mere "*punctum lapidis*," or stone's point, and the Indian stones, the largest of which the Romans had any knowledge, are compared by Pliny to the "kernel of a hazel-nut," which would make them about 10 carats in weight. Large gems may, no doubt, have existed in India, even at that time, and a vague tradition assigns a great antiquity to the Koh-i-Nûr, and some other famous historical diamonds. Only small specimens could, however, have reached the west, because the Indian princes seem in all ages to have either reserved to themselves, or at least prohibited the exportation of stones beyond a certain weight. The Portuguese writer, Garcias ab Horto, writing in the sixteenth century, states that the sovereigns claimed all gems above 30 mangelis, or $37\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and De Laet, a century later, says that stones even

of 10 carats and upwards had been reserved in the old Golconda mines, then exhausted or stopped.

Diamonds of large size have always been extremely rare, even in India itself. Tavernier asserts that before the opening of the Coulour mine, about the year 1550, the largest ever found weighed only from 10 to 12 carats. This statement cannot, however, be accepted in the face of distinct evidence to the contrary. De Laet informs us that, "in the mines some, but extremely rarely, are found of 100, 130, and even 200 carats ; more numerous are those of 8, 9, 10, and 15, while those of lesser weight are far more abundant."* So also Adrian Toll, editor of *De Bool*, says, "In Bisnagar, diamonds are found weighing 140 carats, such as Monard says he himself had seen." He also declares that he heard from trustworthy authorities of one weighing 250 carats, and that it was the size of a small hen's egg. The recently-discovered South African diamond fields are no doubt remarkable for the relatively large number of good sized stones which they have yielded. But even here the absolute number of such specimens is small, so that the statement of Mawe,† writing early in the present century, still holds good that although small stones are sufficiently abundant to be within the reach of a moderate expenditure ; yet those of larger size are, and ever have been, rare. He adds

* "Inveniuntur in Bisnagar adamantes pendentes 140 ceratia, qualem se Monardes vidisse scribit. A fide dignis narrat etiam se audivisse extare unum qui 250 ceratia ponderat, eumque esse exigui ovi gallinacei magnitudine."—*Gemmarum et Labidarum Historia*.

† *A Treatise on Diamonds and Precious Stones*," 2nd edition, 1823, pp. 16 and 17—Introduction.

that of the most celebrated for magnitude and beauty the whole number in Europe scarcely amounts to half a dozen, all of which are in possession of sovereign princes.* This statement must be considered from a Koh-i-Nûr stand-point, and is, no doubt, true, if those gems only be taken into account which weigh 100 carats and upwards. But the number must be increased 10 times if we include all weighing 30 carats and upwards. John Murray, writing in 1838, remarks that the number of diamonds of the weight of 36 carats and above, known to exist in Europe at that time, "do not really amount to more than 19." Since then the number has been considerably increased, especially by the yield from the South African fields. How many of this size there may be in the Portuguese treasury,† the richest in Europe, is not fully known. But it is in evidence that at the sale of the late Duke of Brunswick's effects in Geneva, the list of diamonds included no less than seven weighing from 37 to 81 carats.‡ As little was known of these stones till attention was called to them on this occasion they should probably be added to the 19 referred to by Murray in 1838.

All things considered, the actual number of diamonds over 30 carats in weight now existing in

* "*A Memoir on the Diamond*"—London, 1839, p. 53.

† Supplied exclusively from Brazil, whence for many years past scarcely any stones have been received weighing over 20 carats. "Partien von 2 = 3 = oder 4,000 Karat welche von Brasilien oder andern Orten herübergeschickt werden, enthalten bisweilen einzelne Steine von dem aussergewöhnlichen Gewicht von 12-20 karat." Karl Emil Kluge—"*Handbuch der Edelsteinkunde*," Leipzig, 1860, p. 282.

‡ See the "Catalogue, et noms des Acquéreurs," published at the time by Messrs. Rossel et Fils, Joailliers, Bijoutiers, 12, Rue de Rhône, Geneva, 1874.

every part of the world cannot safely be estimated at much more than 100, of which probably about 50 are in Europe, and the remainder in Persia, India, and Borneo. This number may no doubt be subsequently increased by fresh discoveries in Brazil, South Africa, India, Borneo, Australia, and elsewhere. But the supply of such large specimens from these sources must always be extremely limited ; while the experiments recently conducted by Mr. J. B. Hannay, in Glasgow may be taken as clearly proving that none such will ever be made by artificial means. Those said to have been produced in Mr. Hannay's laboratory by a process doubtless analogous to that followed by nature herself are excessively minute, with a marketable value of scarcely five shillings, the production of which probably cost the speculative experimenter about five pounds each. While the number of small-sized gems will go on accumulating, those of very large magnitude will probably remain, to a great extent, stationary ; their intrinsic value will tend to grow rather than diminish, and apart from the romance of their history, the interest felt in the world's most famous gems will be enhanced as the development of national wealth adds to the ranks of those who are rich enough to compete for their possession. Hitherto our Transatlantic kinsmen have scarcely appeared in the market as serious bidders for their possession. They are great buyers of stones of medium size. American gentlemen wear diamonds in the States almost as generally as the ladies do. It is quite a common thing to see pins and studs of 10 to 15 carats worn in all classes of society ; and in

the streets of the great cities the majority of well-dressed women wear diamond earrings. But in spite of the American love of diamonds, the notable and historic stones are still found outside the pale of the Great Republic. It is only natural to conclude, however, that the day is not far distant when the peerless gem—

“Fair as the star that ushers in the morn,”

will attract the attention of the princes of Wall-street and the Bonanza mine-owners of California. Then the present quotations for exceptionally fine and large stones, usually regarded as somewhat fanciful in price, will, no doubt, be readily commanded by such princely houses as may be willing to replenish their exhausted coffers at the sacrifice of a few brilliant but non-productive heirlooms.

A full account of the origin, nature, properties, and habitat of the diamond will be found in *Precious Stones and Gems*. In the present treatise which may be regarded as a sequel to that work, it is proposed to embody, in a succinct form, the information scattered over many volumes, in diverse languages, and from private family and official manuscripts kindly placed at our disposal for the purposes of this work, regarding all the known specimens weighing from 30 carats and upwards. The extraordinary interest felt in these rarer gems, many of which are associated with strange intrigues and disastrous wars, induces constant inquiry to be made regarding them, their history, their owners, and their whereabouts. Kluge truly remarks that, “of the few large diamonds hitherto extracted from the earth each has, so to say,

its own story, in many instances made up of crimes and outrages." The romantic element plays a large part in these records, which in some cases date back to remote times. Unfortunately the extant accounts are often of the most contradictory character. The incidents associated with some particular stone are constantly transferred to another object. The very identity even of the most famous historical gems is often an open question. To this day it has remained somewhat uncertain whether, for instance, the "Great Mogul" and the "Koh-i-Nûr" are one stone under two names, or really two distinct diamonds, as they certainly appear to be. Errors in the various accounts have often crept in through the ignorance or carelessness of writers, copying from each other, without taking the pains to verify references. A curious instance of this is afforded by Murray, otherwise a good authority, who, in speaking of the "Pitt" or "Regent," says that, "this diamond, it has been stated, was found in Malacca, in the famous mine of Portéal, in the Kingdom of Golconda." In this short sentence there are no less than three gross blunders, for Golconda is not a kingdom, but only a fortified station in the Nizam's territory, formerly a noted *dépôt* for the gems found in the surrounding districts. Nor is the Portéal, or rather Parteal, mine anywhere near Golconda. It lies many miles further south on the lower Kistna river. And lastly, neither Golconda nor Parteal are in Malacca, but in Cisgangetic India. As Malacca is not known to be a diamond field, its mention in this connection can be explained only by supposing that Murray is here

blindly copying from Mawe, who makes the remarkable statement at page 42 of his already quoted work, that, "the 'Pitt' or 'Regent' diamond is said to have been found in Malacca. It was purchased by Mr. Pitt, then Governor of Bencoolen, for less than £20,000." Here is another rich crop of errors, for Mr. Pitt, that is Thomas Pitt, founder of the illustrious house of that name, was Governor, not of Bencoolen, which lies in the south of Sumatra, but of Madras, on the Coromandel or east coast of India. By following up the scent from Mawe backwards to earlier accounts, each embellished in the copying, it is ultimately found that Malacca gets mixed up in the story by some incidental reference to Malachite, confounded by some ignorant amanuensis with the geographical region in question, which reminds one of the story of the Parliamentary reporter who contrived to convert an interrogation about Cowes in the Isle of Wight into an agricultural question. Take again the "Gani" mine, of which we read so much in connection with the "Great Mogul," but which has really no existence at all. Tavernier tells us that this mine was called "Gani" by the natives, and Colare or Coulour by the Persians, and, of course, the statement has been scrupulously reported by all subsequent writers on the subject. But nobody has ever yet succeeded in identifying such a place as "Gani," and the word would appear to be simply a corruption, or possibly a collateral form of the Dravidian Kan, which means not any particular mine, but a mine in general. On the other hand Coulour seems undoubtedly to be, not the Gan-i-Parteal, that is, the Parteal mine on the Kistna, as is

usually supposed, but Kollur, still known by that name, also on the Kistna, but some 25 miles further west, in lat. $16^{\circ} 42' N.$, and long. $80^{\circ} 5' 10'' E.$ * Therefore in Gani-Kollur, and not in Partaal, was found the "Great Mogul" of Tavernier. In the following account of all the great historical diamonds, every effort will be made to rectify these and other current errors regarding them,† and, where possible to reconcile the numerous conflicting statements met with in popular treatises on their origin, history, and identity. Many of the great diamonds are known to Mr. Streeter,

* See an interesting paper by Mr. V. Ball, in "*Nature*," for March 24th, 1881, "On the Identity of some Ancient Diamond Mines in India, especially those mentioned by Tavernier." From the writer's remarks it seems obvious that *Gani* should be written Gan-i or Kani, *i.e.*, "the mine of," to be followed by the proper name of each particular mine. Thus *Gan-i-Partial*, *Gan-i-Kollur*, &c. Here the particle *i* is, of course, the same as that which occurs in such well-known compound expressions as *Koh-i-Nur*, *Kaisar-i-Hind*, &c., and which in Persian has the force of our preposition *of*, though originally a relative pronoun. It may here be added that amongst other famous mines, now for the first time identified by Mr. Ball, are *Rawlconda*, which appears to be the old town of Rawdu Konda in lat. $15^{\circ} 50' N.$, long. $76^{\circ} 50' E.$; *Soumelpour*, which he thinks is not the *Sambalpur* on the Mahanadi River, in the Central Provinces, as is generally supposed, but *Semulh*, which word is identical with *Semoul*, the native name of a species of cotton tree. *Semulpour*, or the town of *Semul*, is therefore, probably, Tavernier's *Soumelpour*. Lastly *Beeragurh*, mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akhbari*, is unquestionably identical with the modern *Mairagurh*, in the Chanda District of the Central Provinces, where excavations, locally known to have been diamantiferous, are still to be seen.

† A fruitful source of error is the ignorance of transcribers from foreign sources, and especially from German works. A very curious instance of this is the version current in popular English treatises of the list of French Crown Jewels as taken in 1791. Here occur the mysterious entries, "Golden Blies, 51 carats, 300,000 francs," "The Ebenda, 26 carats, 150,000 francs," and another, "Ebenda, 20 carats, 48,000 francs." By reference to the German accounts, from which these are obviously copied, the "Golden Blies" is found to be "Am goldenen-Vlies," that is, in the, "Golden Fleece," where the transcriber mistook the German V for B, whence the "Golden Blies." In the same way, the German "Ebenda," meaning simply "ditto," is twice raised to the dignity of a crown jewel, worth many thousands of francs

who possesses models of them. In the course of a short time he will complete his collection of crystals, cut for the purpose from the gems themselves, or from models designed on the lines of the best possible descriptions of them that can be obtained.

The carat being the universal standard of weight and size for the diamond, a few remarks on this unit of the measure may here be found useful. The original meaning of this term has afforded subject for much controversy. Mawe cuts the matter short by asserting that the carat is an Indian denomination of weight. One hundred and fifty carats and a quarter are equal to an ounce troy (Op. cit. p. 2). But the carat, which is a Greek word,* could not have been originally used as a denomination of weight in India, where the *rati* seems to have been the most general, though by no means a uniform standard. It fluctuated in different times and places between 1.86 & 2.25 grains,† whereas the carat has the great advantage of being very nearly a constant factor everywhere. It is equivalent to 4 grains avoirdupois, five of which are equal to 4 grains troy, so that one carat is equal to 3.174 grains troy, and $15\frac{1}{2}$ carats

* From *χεράτιον*, the fruit of the locust tree, and of a species of vetch, the seeds of which, running very uniform, furnished natural weights for estimating the value of small and precious articles to the Orientals just as barley grains afforded the unite of weight and of measure to the Europeans, King, Op. cit. p. 113. Kluge, (Op. cit. p. 230.), derives the word from "Kuara," the name of an African pod-bearing plant, the seed of which was used in Galla-land, south of Abyssinia, for weighing gold, but the mediæval spelling *Kératia* shews that this derivation is inadmissible.

† In Sambhulphur one *rati* = 2 grains, and 7 *rati* = 1 *mesta*. The *rati* of which 40 = 1 *mishkal* (Sultan Baber), is the *Absus precatorius* or *rutka*, a small red-pointed seed. The *mishkal* was a Persian measure = half *distrem* or 74.5 grains.

to one English oz. The actual value of the carat in different countries, in milligrams, is as under :—

England	...	205.4090
France...	...	205.500
Berlin ...	...	205.4400
Vienna	...	206.1300
Holland	. .	205.044
Spain ...	...	205.3930
Portugal	...	205.7500
Brazil ...	...	205.7500

I.

THE BRAGANZA.

The Largest Reported Diamond extant—The Romantic Story of its Discovery—Guarded as a Treasure of Portugal—Another Version of its Strange History—Errors of the Scribes—"Rule of Thumb" in the Old Days—Enormous Value of the Braganza if genuine—Diamond or Topaz?—The Negro and his Supposed Treasure—A Terrible Disappointment.



If genuine, the Braganza is by far the largest diamond, not only now in existence, but of which there is any record. But its very size, weighing no less than 1,680 carats in the rough, has caused it to be suspected, and no opportunity has hitherto been afforded of examining it with sufficient care to warrant anything like a conclusive judgment as to its true character. It is also to be noticed that even were it ascertained to be a diamond, it might have to be greatly reduced in size, if not cleaved into two or more stones, in the cutter's hands. As a rule the larger the stone the more it proportionately loses in size in the process necessary for the full development of its beauty. The loss is usually reckoned at about one half for moderately large gems. But for one of such large dimensions as the Braganza it could not safely be estimated at perhaps less than two-thirds. This would reduce the finished jewel to about

560 carats ; but even so it would still remain exactly twice as large as the Great Mogul, the next largest cut stone of which we have any record. Consequently, pending the decision of the question regarding its real nature, it must stand at the head of our list of great diamonds.

One of the earliest and best accounts we have of this stone is that given by Mawe at p. 242 of his *Travels in Brazil*. "A few leagues," he writes, "to the north of the Rio Plata is the rivulet named Abaïté, celebrated for having produced the largest diamond in the Prince's possession, which was found about twelve years ago. Though this circumstance has been already briefly stated,* it may be allowed me in this place to relate the particulars as they were detailed to me during my stay at Tejuco. Three men [elsewhere named Antonio de Sousa, Jose Feliz Gomez, and Thomas de Sousa], having been found guilty of high crimes, were banished into the interior, and ordered not to approach any of the capital towns, or to remain in civilized society on pain of perpetual imprisonment. Driven by this hard sentence into the most unfrequented part of the country, they endeavoured to explore new mines or new productions, in the hope that, sooner or later, they might have the good fortune to make some important discovery, which would obtain a reversal of their sentence, and enable them to regain their station in

* At p. 140, where the stone is said to be of an octahedral form weighing seven-eighths of an ounce, and, "perhaps the largest diamond in world," Mawe adds that, "It is now in the private possession of the Prince Regent."

society. They wandered about in this neighbourhood, making frequent searches in its various mines, for more than six years, during which time they were exposed to a double risk, being continually liable to become the prey of the anthropophagi, and in no less danger of being seized by the soldiers of Government. At length they, by hazard, made some trials in the river Abaité, at a time when its waters were so low, in consequence of a long season of drought, that a part of its bed was left exposed. Here, while searching and washing for gold, they had the good fortune to find a diamond nearly an ounce in weight. Elated by this providential discovery, which at first they could scarcely believe to be real, yet hesitating between a dread of the rigorous laws relating to the diamonds, and a hope of regaining their liberty, they consulted a clergyman, who advised them to trust to the mercy of the State, and accompanied them to Villa Rica, where he procured them access to the governor. They threw themselves at his feet, and delivered to him the invaluable gem on which their hopes rested, relating all the circumstances connected with it. The governor, astonished at its magnitude, could not trust the evidence of his senses, but called the officers of the establishment to decide whether it was a diamond, who set the matter beyond all doubt. Being thus by the most strange and unforeseen accident put in possession of the largest diamond ever found in America, he thought proper to suspend the sentence of the men as a reward for their having delivered it to him. The gem was sent to Rio de Janeiro, from whence a frigate was dispatched with it

to Lisbon, whither the clergyman was also sent to make the proper representations respecting it. The sovereign confirmed the pardon of the delinquents, and bestowed some preferment on the holy father."

This famous stone, which has been valued by Romé Delisle at no less than 300 millions sterling, is said to be about the size of a goose's egg, and its weight is usually estimated at 1,680 carats, which at the rate of 150 carats to the ounce, would make rather over 11 oz. M. Ferry makes it weigh 1,730 carats; and Emanuel as much as 1,880, though this figure may probably be a misprint for 1,680. Still, the lowest of these estimates is immensely in excess of Mawe's calculation that it weighs only "seven-eighths of an ounce." Mawe is here, however, inconsistent with himself, for a stone of this size could not be described as "perhaps the largest diamond in the world."

In his "Memoir on the Diamond," Murray supplies some further interesting particulars. He tells us that "it remains still uncut, but Don John VI. had a hole drilled through it, and it was suspended to his neck on gala days." Murray was not aware whether it was still among the crown jewels given up by Miguel, or had been previously pledged to carry on the war against the French. For this latter report, current in Murray's time, there seems to be no foundation, and according to all recent authorities the stone would appear never to have been removed from the Portuguese treasury, where it is jealously guarded against all inquisitive sight-seers. For obvious financial motives, the Government is naturally anxious that,

whatever be its true character, it should continue to be regarded as a genuine diamond. On this point the strongest doubts have always been entertained, and Murray tells us that, "Mr. Mawe, who had attentively examined it, informed me that he considered it to be a 'Nova Mina,' or white topaz, and not a diamond."

This passage presents considerable difficulty, for Mawe nowhere says he had ever even seen, much less examined, the stone; nor is it easy to understand how he could have had the opportunity of doing so. Indeed his description of it as a "*white topaz*" would seem to imply that he never set eyes on this gem, at least if Barbot is correct in describing it as "*d'une couleur jaune foncé.*"

This is very far from being the only discrepancy in the current accounts of the Braganza. Barbot himself tells us that it was found, not by three banished criminals, but by a slave, who, therefore, received his liberty, and, "*une pension viagère pour lui et la famille.*" He adds that it is the shape of a pea, and, "might be about the size of a hen's egg;" while Liebig reduces its weight to 95 carats.* Authorities are equally at variance as to the date of its discovery, which Kluge says was in 1741, Murray about 1764, and others, with Mawe, more correctly, about 1797.† In the same way, the locality where it was found is stated by

* In "*Handwörterbuch der reinen und angewandten Chemie,*" quoted by Kluge.

† This seems evident from Mawe's statement that, "it was found about twelve years ago," that is, twelve years before the year 1809, when he was in Tejuco taking notes for his work on Brazil, the 1st edition of which appeared in 1812.

Mawe to have been the bed of the river Abaïté, when it had run partly dry ; whereas Jones,* says that it was extracted from the mine of Caéthá Mirim in 1741. Lastly Jones himself splits this very stone into two, one of which he calls the "Braganza," the other the "Abaïté," and finds a history for each. Of the former he says that it was extracted from the mine of Caéthá Mirim in 1741, and that it was worn by Don João VI., who had a passion for precious stones, of which he owned about £3,000,000 worth. Of the latter he writes that it "was found in 1791, and the circumstances of its discovery was related by Mawe and others. Three men, convicted of capital offences, Antonio de Sousa, José Feliz Gomez, and Thomas de Sousa, were exiled to the far west of Minas, and forbidden, under pain of death, to enter a city, wandered about for some six years, braving cannibals and wild beasts, in search of treasure. Whilst washing for gold in the Abaïté river, which was then exceptionally dry, they discovered this diamond weighing nearly an ounce (576 grains=144 carats). They trusted to a priest who, despite the severe laws against diamond washers, led them to Villa Rica, and submitted the stone to the governor of Minas, whose doubts were dissipated by a special commission. The priest obtained several privileges, and the malefactors their pardon, no other reward being mentioned."

It will be noticed at once that this story relates not, as here stated, to a diamond weighing 144 carats, but to the stone Jones has already spoken of under the

name of Braganza, weighing 1,680 carats. It is obvious that two stories, relating to two distinct gems have got mixed up together by careless writers, copying from each other, each repeating or adding to the errors made by his predecessors, and all carefully avoiding the trouble involved in the consultation of the original authorities. The subjoined passage from Milliet de Saint Adolphe* makes it perfectly clear that the Braganza and the Abaïté are one and the same stone, and identical with what the writer calls the "Regent," because brought to Lisbon during the regency of John VI. This circumstance also fixes the date of its discovery at about the year 1798; for John was appointed Regent in 1799, when his mother Maria I. lost her reason. Speaking of the river Abaïté, which rises in the Mata da Corda mountains, and flows through the province of Minas-Geraes, for 40 leagues north-east to the left bank of the São-Francisco, 12 leagues below the mouth of the Andaia, the writer observes: "It was in this river that was found by three convicts, condemned to perpetual exile, the diamond of the Portuguese crown called the 'Regent.' The parish priest of the place to whom the criminals showed it, took it in person to the Governor of Minas-Geraes in 1800, and interceded for those

* "*Dictionario Geographico Historico e Descriptivo do Imperio do Brazil*," por J. C. R. Milliet de Saint Adolphe, Paris, 1863. 'This work was translated from the unpublished French manuscript into Portuguese by Dr. Cantano Lopes de Moura, and in this version the passage runs thus: "Neste rio e' que foi achado por tres malleitores condemnados a desterro perpetuo o diamante da Corôa Portugueza chamado o Regente. O parcho do lugor, a quem os degradados o mostrâão, o levou em pessoa ao governador de Minas Geraes em 1800, e intercedes por aquelles infelizes O Governador enviou a diamante a Lisboa, e o príncipe regente, depois Don João VI. fez graça aos condemnados."

unhappy persons. The governor sent the diamond to Lisbon, and the Prince Regent, afterwards Don João VI., pardoned the condemned criminals." The circumstances here briefly recapitulated show conclusively that the writer is speaking of the same diamond that Mawe describes as weighing 1,680 carats. Consequently to this and to no other belongs the story of the three convicts. It also appears from this statement that the "Braganza" and "Regent of Portugal," usually regarded as two distinct gems, are really one and the same stone. Else we shall have to believe that two exceptionally large stones were found in Brazil under exactly similar circumstances, that is by three criminals, banished to perpetual exile, and who thereupon received their pardon.

Murray tells us on the authority of a Mr. Magellan, that "a fragment was broken off from it by the ignorance of the person who found it, having struck it a blow with a hammer." This was the old rough-and-ready method of testing stones, the nature of which was not obvious at first sight. It was supposed that true diamonds resisted the heaviest blows of the hammer, whereas it is now well-ascertained that they are easily split by cleavage. Hence the circumstance here mentioned would not of itself imply that this stone was not a real diamond. At the same time it is not at all certain that Magellan referred to the Abaité stone, which was found not by *a person*, as here stated, but by *three* criminals, as in Mawe's account.

With regard to its value, Murray, rejecting Romé Delisle's preposterous estimate of 300 millions sterling, considers that "according to the method of calculation

by Jeffries," its value will be, in its present form, £5,644,800. But no price at all can be set upon a stone which is still in the rough state, and regarding the true character of which the greatest uncertainty prevails.

Referring to Mawe's statement that the stone may be a white topaz, it is well to remember that the topaz, which consists of a fluo-silicate mixed with silicate of aluminium, is often very apt to be mistaken for the diamond by unpractised eyes. This is especially the case with the colourless stone known as the *Goutte d'Eau*, and even with the yellow Brazilian variety, which, when skilfully cut, forms a very handsome gem. The German Aulic-councillor, Beireis of Helmstadt, who died in 1809, possessed a stone of this sort, which to the last he believed to be a diamond, although it was said to be as large as an ostrich's egg, and to weight 6,400 carats. He kept it carefully locked up in his cabinet, producing it only on rare occasions, and gave out that he had received it in pledge from the Emperor of China. Nobody, of course, believed this story, but the strange part of it was, that at his death, the stone was found to have mysteriously disappeared. Its existence is vouched for by the testimony of Göthe himself, who was one of the privileged few to whom Beireis showed it. The owner may have possibly, towards the end, discovered his mistake, and destroyed the stone, either for a love of mystery, to which some minds are so prone, or else to save his reputation, by preventing the true character of the gem from becoming known. Some have supposed that this stone was not even a topaz, but

merely a piece of rock crystal, like that concerning which Mawe tells the following story :—

“ A free negro of Villa do Principe, about 900 miles distant, had the assurance to write a letter to the Prince Regent, announcing that he possessed an amazingly large diamond, which he had received from a deceased friend some years ago, and which he begged he might have the honour to present his royal highness in person. As the magnitude which this poor fellow ascribed to his diamond, was such as to raise imagination to its highest pitch, an order was immediately dispatched to the commander of Villa do Principe, to send him forthwith to Rio de Janeiro, he was accommodated with a conveyance, and escorted by two soldiers. As he passed along the road, all who had heard the report hailed him as already honoured with a cross of the Order of St. Bento, and as sure of being rewarded with the pay of a general of brigade. The soldiers also anticipated great promotion, and all persons envied the fortunate negro. At length, after a journey which occupied about twenty-eight days, he arrived at the capital, and was straightway conveyed to the palace. His happiness was now about to be consummated ; in a few moments the hopes which he had for so many years indulged would be realized, and he should be exalted from a low and obscure condition, to a state of affluence and distinction. Such, no doubt, were the thoughts which agitated him during the moments of suspense. At length he was admitted into the presence ; he threw himself at the prince's feet, and delivered his wonderful gem. His highness was astonished at its magnitude,

a pause ensued, the attendants waited to hear the prince's opinion, and what he said they seconded. A round diamond, nearly a pound in weight filled them all with wonder ; some ready calculators reckoned the millions it was worth ; others found it difficult to enumerate the sum at which it would be valued ; but the general opinion of his highness's servants was, that the treasury was many millions of crowns the richer. The noise which the occurrence created among the higher circles may be easily conceived ; the general topic of remark and wonder was the negro's offering. It was shewn to the ministers, among whom an apprehension, and even a doubt, was expressed that a substance so large and round might not prove a real diamond. They, however, sent it to the treasury under a guard, and it was lodged in the deposit of the jewel room. On the next day the Condé de Linhares, sent for me, and related all the circumstances which had come to his knowledge respecting the famous jewel, adding in a low tone of voice that he had his doubts about its proving a genuine diamond. His excellency directed me to attend at his office in a few hours, when letters from himself and the other ministers to the treasury should be given me for permission to see this invaluable gem, in order to determine what it really was. Readily accepting a charge of so interesting a nature, I prepared myself, and attended at the hour appointed, when I received the letters, which I presented at the treasury to an officer in waiting. I was led through several apartments, in which much business seemed to be transacting, to the grand chamber, where presided the treasurer, attended by

his secretaries. Having my letters in his hand, he entered into some conversation with me relative to the subject. I was then shown through other grand apartments hung with scarlet and gold, and ornamented with figures as large as life representing justice holding the balance. In the inner room, to which we were conducted, there were several strong chests with three locks each, the keys of which were kept by three different officers, who were all required to be present at the opening. One of these chests being unlocked, an elegant little cabinet was taken out, from which the treasurer took the gem, and in great form presented it to me. Its value sunk at the first sight, for before I touched it I was convinced that it was a rounded piece of crystal. It was about an inch and a half in diameter. On examining it, I told the governor it was not a diamond, and to convince him I took a diamond of five or six carats, and with it cut a very deep nick in the stone. This was proof positive. A certificate was accordingly made out, stating that it was an inferior substance, of little or no value, which I signed. . . . The poor negro, who had presented it, was, of course, deeply afflicted by this unwelcome news. Instead of being accompanied home by an escort, he had to find his way thither as he could, and would, no doubt, have to encounter the ridicule and contempt of those, who had of late congratulated him on his good fortune."

II.

THE MATAN.

Exploration of the Land of the Matan—Traditional Wealth of Borneo—The “ Reputed largest-known Diamond in the World ”—Exportation of Diamonds by the Dutch—The Ladies of Batavia—Sir Stamford Raffle’s Account of the Matan—Found by a Labourer, claimed by the Rajah—Regarded as a Talisman—Appearance of the Gem—Offers of Purchase in Gold and War-ships



BORNEO is no longer a *terra incognita*. The Dutch at one point and Rajah Brook at another have already dissipated for us some of the legendary terrors that have induced travellers and traders to give the coasts of Brunei and Sabah a wide berth. Recently two important works on Borneo have been published, the first by Carl Bock, who has explored most of the Dutch territory, the second by Joseph Hatton, who, in possession of the private letters and explorers’ reports of the British North Borneo has given us some interesting revelations about Sabah, and the mysterious regions of Kina Balu. These current volumes, written upon authoritative data maintain to some extent the traditional character of Borneo as “a treasure house of gems,” though it is plain that the mineral wealth of the country has been over-rated. The habit of one writer copying from another previously referred to, has been peculiarly in vogue as

touching the history of Borneo, the truth being that until within the past year no white man has ever crossed the island from shore to shore. Even now this work of exploration has not been carried out at the widest point. The company which, chartered by the Queen, revives memories of the association which gave us our Eastern Empire, is now exploring the most interesting part of Borneo, the mountainous regions of the north. Expectations of mineral discoveries are justified, and whether they are realised or not all who are interested in the history of the world's famous gems will watch with curiosity the new developments promised in the land which is known to have produced many splendid stones, but which is more particularly associated with the history of the Matan diamond.*

Since the reduction of the Great Mogul by Borgio, the Matan (commonly, but incorrectly, written *Mattam*), takes rank as "the largest

* "When Mr. Hunt was in Borneo, there were gold mines in the vicinity of Sambas and also at Matan. Mention of this latter district recalls the subject of 'the largest known diamond in the world,' the reality of which is doubted by several writers and travellers. Mr. Edwin W. Streeter, in his recent work on '*Precious Stones and Gems*,' however, considers the history of this diamond to be sufficiently established for record as a genuine stone. Models of it exist, and many travellers have seen it. Recently a traveller shipped to England a stone which was to eclipse in splendour some of the most notable of known diamonds. It was pronounced by several amateur mineralogists to be a genuine diamond. The finder entered into a bargain with a certain traveller for its sale. Having insured it for £4,000, they committed it to the care of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, who delivered it safely to a trusted friend in London. Submitted to an expert, the verdict was, 'A pebble of no value.' The doubt which rests upon the Rajah stone lies chiefly in the fact that the owner will not have it cut; and there is much reason to fear that it must be relegated to companionship with 'the Braganza' of the Portuguese State jewels which remains in the rough, a reputed diamond of 1,680 carats, the value of which, if genuine, might be set down at over £58,000,000 sterling."—"The New Ceylon," by Joseph Hatton.

genuine diamond of which there is any record." We are not in a position to express a definite opinion upon the genuineness of the stone. There are travellers who are as emphatic in their belief as to its reality, as others are in denouncing it. The question is who among them have seen the original stone, and who only a model of it; for it is alleged that the Sultan only exhibits the latter under very special circumstances. It was found apparently in the year 1787 in the Landak mines near the west coast of Borneo. The town of Landak, the centre of this rich mining district, which is said to abound in gold, diamonds, and iron, lies to the north-east of Pontianak, a little north of the equator, and in $109^{\circ} 53'$ E. long. The district is comprised within the territory of the Rajah of Matan, which stretches along the west coast, between Pontianak and Sarawak, and which has long been subject to the Dutch. The diamond takes its name from the Rajah of the territory, in whose family it has remained ever since its discovery.

Very little being known regarding these Borneo diamantiferous regions, the subjoined particulars may be found interesting. Those of Landak are amongst the oldest and most productive in the world, and have been worked, though not very systematically, ever since the establishment of Malay settlements on the coast. Here diamonds are found not only in the river beds when dry, but also in their original sites at the foot of the mountains. The diggings are usually carried to a depth of from ten to thirty feet, and constant experience has shown that the deeper they are dug the gems are both more plentiful, and of larger size and

finer quality. At Landak there are ten *parits* or mines, each employing from twenty to thirty labourers. So far back as 1738, the Dutch annually exported from this district diamonds to the value of from 200,000 to 300,000 dollars, and Sir Stamford Raffles tells us that "few courts of Europe could boast of a more brilliant display of diamonds than, in the prosperous times of the Dutch, was exhibited by the ladies of Batavia, the principal and only mart yet opened for the Bornean diamond mines, and whence those known in the European world have been procured. With the decline of the Dutch Government, however, the demand has decreased, and the mines are now much neglected, the numerous diamond-cutters not being able to obtain a livelihood. Formerly, when more Chinese were employed in the mines of Landak, diamonds from 10 to 13 carats were common in the public markets. The Pangéran (Rajah) of Landak now wears one of 18, and another of $14\frac{1}{2}$ carats."*

The mines in this part of the island have been worked for over a century chiefly by the Chinese. But in 1842 the "Celestials" were set upon, and either massacred or driven out of the country by the Dyaks, as the aborigines are called. The cause of this outbreak was the intolerable tyranny of the Chinese, who appear to have treated the Dyak labourers employed by them with the most atrocious cruelty and oppression. It was one of these Dyaks who found the large diamond under consideration, as fully related by Sir Stamford Raffles. "Among the larger diamonds which these

* "*History of Java*," I., p. 266, 2nd edition, London, 1830.

mines have produced, it may not be uninteresting to mention that the great diamond now in the possession of the Sultan of Matan, which has been seen and examined by Europeans, weighs 367 carats ; it is of the shape of an egg, indented on one side. It is, however, uncut ; and on this account it may be difficult to say whether it will become the largest cut diamond ever known ; for the famous diamond of Aurung-zeb, called the Mogul, in its rough state, weighed 795 carats, and was then valued at £600,000 ; but when cut was reduced to 279 carats. This celebrated diamond, known by the name of the ' Matan ' diamond, was discovered by a Dyak, and claimed as a droit of royalty by the Sultan of the country, Gúrnlaya, but was handed over to the Pangéran of Landak, whose brother, having got possession of it, gave it as a bribe to the Sultan of Sûkadâna, in order that he might be placed on the throne of Landak. The lawful prince, however, having fled to Bantam, by the aid of the prince of that country and the Dutch, succeeded in regaining possession of his district, and nearly destroyed Sûkadâna. It has remained as an heir-loom in the family for four descents, and is almost the only appendage of royalty now remaining."

Although it has brought little but trouble to its owners, this gem is looked upon by them as a sort of tutelar deity, and held in the very highest esteem on account of the astonishing healing virtues with which the popular imagination has endowed it. That such superstitious ideas should still be prevalent amongst the semi-civilized races of the East, need not surprise

us, when we remember that the great luminary of the Church, St. Jerome, author of the Latin Vulgate, attributed all kinds of wonderful virtues to the sapphire, solemnly declaring that it secured to its owner the favour of princes, disarmed his enemies, baffled the wizard's arts, liberated captives, and even appeased the wrath of the Deity himself. The Malays of Landak are firmly persuaded that the water in which the Matan has been dipped is a specific for all disorders; and, no doubt, this very belief has occasionally produced good results, especially in cases of nervous complaints. Similar effects are constantly witnessed amongst the devout pilgrims to the various shrines and holy wells, such as those of Loretto, La Salette, Lough Derg, and others in Roman Catholic countries.

Hugh Low tells us that the Matan "is as yet uncut, and weighs 376 carats, so that if cut and polished, it would be reduced to $183\frac{1}{2}$ carats. Its value is estimated by Mr. Crawford to be £269,378, being less by £34,822 than that of the Russian diamond, and £119,730 more than that of the Pitt diamond. . . . I have been informed by a person who supposed himself to be a good judge of diamonds that the Sultan possesses the real stone, which he had seen; but that a crystal is shown to strangers, as the Sultan, who has been already robbed of his territory, fears that this last emblem of royalty will be also taken from him by his powerful and avaricious neighbours at Pontianak."* Mawe also

* "*Sarawak*." London, 1848, p. 27-8.

mentions that a friend of his, "Captain of an Indiaman, was permitted to see it, but was requested not to touch it. This gem was brought in on a gold salver, and was about the size of a common walnut ; it had a bluish *metallic* lustre." It is remarkable that the author of a paper on "Precious Stones" in the *Edinburgh Review* for July, 1866, describes the Hope as also "of a decided, but rather *steel-like* blue."

So highly prized is "the Matan Diamond" that its owner has always refused to part with it, declining the most tempting offers of the Dutch Government, which has shown a great desire to get possession of a talisman associated in the eastern mind with empire, and with the fortunes of the dynasty guarding it. Early in the century, the governor of Batavia sent Mr. Stewart to the Rajah to negotiate its purchase. He offered 150,000 dollars, two large war brigs, with their full complement of guns and ammunition, besides a considerable quantity of other warlike material, but the tempting bait was rejected.

III.

THE NIZAM.

History, Past and Present—Suggestive Contrasts—What a Jewel might have Seen—Supposed Value of the Nizam Diamond—Its Shape and Appearance—The Stone is Broken during the Indian Mutiny—Strange Powers Supposed to Belong to the Gem—Possibilities in the History of the Nizam.



HERE are few great secrets kept from the ken of the modern historian, who writes down the events of the time for the newspaper Press. A precious stone of more than usual importance sees the light to-day, and to-morrow its advent is proclaimed to all the world. Thereafter due chronicles are kept of its travels and adventures. Its comings and goings are noted as matter of universal interest. We may not be informed of the varied intrigues in which it is a factor, but it is on record, it is catalogued in the world's museum of treasures ; the "bull's-eye of the Press" has been turned upon it ; the opinions of Queens and Emperors in regard to it are registered, as well as the judgment of experts and scientists ; in short it belongs to history.

In singular contrast to all this are the hazy accounts which have come down to us concerning the first appearance, and the subsequent vicissitudes of the great

gems of old. Created amidst commotions of nature, of an intensity beyond imagination, they have in historic ages often burst upon the knowledge of Europeans in the lesser commotions of human life. War and famine, civil strife, and pestilence have alike contributed to rescue from comparative oblivion some precious stone. It has been eloquently remarked, "A jewel may rest on an English lady's arm that saw Alaric sack Rome, and beheld before—what not? The treasures of the palaces of the Pharaohs and of Darius, or the camp of the Ptolomies, come into Europe on the neck of a vulgar pro-consul's wife, to glitter at every gladiator's butchery in the amphitheatre; then pass in a Gothic ox waggon to an Arab seraglio at Seville; and so back to its native India, to figure in the peacock throne of the Great Mogul; to be bought by an Armenian for a few rupees from an English soldier; and so at last come hither." The romancist or the poet may seek in vain for the inspiration of more startling events than the possible adventures and the known incidents that belong to the history of precious stones and gems.

What might not an inventive fancy build upon the vague traditions which hang about the story of the Nizam diamond? Although one of the very largest stones in the world, little or nothing reliable is known about it, except as to its size, estimated value, and its fortunate owner.

Barbot says that, "the King of Golconda possesses a magnificent stone in the rough state. It is known by the name of the Nizam, weighs 340 carats, and is valued at 5,000,000 francs" (£200,000). For

“the King of Golconda,” a title which has long been obsolete, though still flourishing in French literature, we should here read, “the Nizam of Hyderabad.” This prince, who is the most powerful semi-independent ruler in the Deccan, is a lineal descendant of the former Mogul Viceroy of Golconda, and in his territory are situated the famous diamond-fields popularly known as the Golconda mines. Of these mines, the Kollur, on the river Kistna, was the most productive, and was especially noted for the unusually large crystals yielded by it. Here was undoubtedly found the Great Mogul, and here also, in all probability, was discovered that stone now known as the Nizam, from the official title of its princely owner.

Little importance can be attached to the statement that this remarkable crystal is valued at £200,000; for it is still in the rough state. The necessary process of reduction is well-known to be always attended with more or less risk, so that the most skilled expert would scarcely hazard his reputation by venturing an opinion on the intrinsic character of a rough diamond before it has been manipulated by the cutter and polisher. In the hands of the cutter many unsuspected blemishes are often revealed, which require the diamond to be greatly reduced in size, or even cleaved into several pieces. But the Nizam has a good reputation, and it is probable that it might be advantageously cut without sacrificing more than one half of its present weight, viz., 340 carats. In that case it would still rank with the very largest gems on record.

King describes it as, “somewhat almond-shaped,

almost in its native condition, although it seems to exhibit some traces of an attempt to shape it into the mystic *Yoni*, probably with the intention of it being placed, as her usual attribute, in the land of *Parvati*, the goddess of generation. In the cast from it, which I have examined, the ineffectual attempts of the Hindu lapidary to work the obdurate material to his fancy are extremely curious." Then he adds, "This stone was by some very ominous accident broken asunder in the year of the great Indian revolt. Weight 340 carats." But he does not say whether this weight refers to its size before or after its breakage.

Dieulafoy gives its estimated value at £200,000, and it has been stated that its original weight, before being fractured, was no less than 440 carats. If so it was the largest genuine diamond ever discovered except the Great Mogul, and it is remarkable that both of these enormous specimens came apparently from the same rich diamantiferous district of Kollur in the Kistna Valley. It is quite possible that the breaking of the stone, accidental or otherwise, regarded as an omen of trouble, may have had its influence on historical events; for not only uncivilized and Oriental potentates, but Christian kings and learned men have given to precious stones wonderful powers. In mediæval days carbuncles were credited with an influence on poisons; jasper was believed to cure fevers; agate ministered to defective eye-sight; and carnelian stopped hæmorrhage. Juvenal records of a ring, belonging to Cicero that it endowed him with eloquence; and Edward the Confessor had a ring which was believed to cure

epilepsy. It seems, however, to be the especial privilege of the diamond in affairs of love to have an influence only second to that of the fabled Cupid himself. What part the Nizam may have played in the intrigues and passions of Courts and peoples the present historian knoweth not ; and as it is his purpose to adhere as far as possible to mere facts, without, however, setting aside tradition, he must leave to the imagination of the reader the possibilities of adventure which are suggested by the blanks that are left, wide and deep, in the history of the Nizam.

IV.

THE STEWART.

The two Largest Diamonds of South Africa—Finding the Stewart—An Accidental Discovery.—“Joy is Dangerous”—The Anxiety of Possession—Taking the Treasure Home.



UNTIL quite recently the fame of South Africa as a diamond-field was represented by the Stewart, which has however, now a competitor in “the Porter-Rhodes,” which was exhibited last year in Bond Street. Prior to this recent reward of mining enterprise at the Cape, the Stewart was not only the largest diamond hitherto found in South Africa, but was exceeded in size in the whole world by three others only—the Matan, Nizam, and Great Mogul. The subjoined account of its discovery appeared in the *Port Elizabeth Telegraph* of November 22, 1872 :—“The claim from which this gem was taken was originally owned by a Mr. F. Pepper, by him sold to a Mr. Spalding for £30, and handed over by the latter to one Antoine, to work on shares. The claim was quite an outside one, and not thought much of by the owner ; but as others were finding near him, he thought it was just possible he might also find a gem. He persevered until first, the ‘ July Diamond,’ and next, after further toil, this prize rewarded his labour. Antoine’s feelings when he first obtained a glimpse of the treasure

may be better imagined than described. He says that he was working in the claim, when he told his boy to leave off picking in the centre, and commence at the side. Not being understood, he took a pick and began himself, when he was suddenly spell-bound by the sight of a large stone, with the primary aspect of a diamond. For some minutes he could neither speak nor move for fear of dispelling the apparent illusion, but collecting his energies, he made a dart forward and clutched the prize. Even then, however, he did not feel quite safe, and it required a grand effort to reach Mr. Spalding's cart, which had to be called into requisition. For two whole days he was unable to eat anything from the intensity of his excitement."

The Stewart, like the majority of African stones, is of a light yellow tinge, and perfectly crystallised. It was consigned to Messrs. Pittar, Leverson & Co., who found that it weighed in the rough $288\frac{3}{8}$ carats, or nearly two ounces troy.

V.

THE GREAT MOGUL.

A Stormy Birth and a Tragic End—Two Centuries of History—Intrigue and Murder—The Afflictions of Shah Jehan—An Honest Cutter—The Great Mogul and the Koh-i-Nûr—Eastern Magnificence—A King showing his Jewels to a Visitor—Shape of the Great Mogul and its General Appearance—Its Identity Established—A Usurper's Subterfuge—Shah Jehan's Desire to Destroy all his Gems—The Peacock Throne—Mysterious Disappearance of the Gem at the Fall of Delhi.



BRUGHT to light in the midst of tumults and wars, the Great Mogul Diamond went out with the expiring flames of a mighty rebellion. Its existence covers a remarkable and eventful period of the world's history. At the time of its discovery, Round-heads and Royalists were fighting for supremacy in England; and after many tragic incidents of pestilence and battle, the Deccan had just got its first independent sovereign. Ben Johnson and Phillip Massenger were writing plays, and their countrymen, who carried the commercial flag of the land into strange seas, had just obtained authority to trade with the Portuguese ports in India. The Great Powers were busy with their first important explorations; and the East India Company had newly received the charter of Queen Elizabeth. A meteor among gems, the Great Mogul challenged the wonder and admiration

of the world from this period for two hundred years, to go to pieces in the last days of the Indian Mutiny. There is a little uncertainty as to the date when the Gani Mine gave up its precious freight ; but only in the matter of a few years, and we are inclined to fix it somewhere between 1630 and 1650. It is impossible to ticket and number a gem such as the Great Mogul as if it were a piece of antiquity, the relic of an ancient palace, the capital of a column, the statue of some classic sculptor. The births of the famous diamonds which scintillate the dark traditions of Eastern Courts are all, as we have said before, more or less shrouded in mystery ; but few gems have had a more striking career or a more dramatic *dénouement* than the Great Mogul.

It was at a strange and sanguinary period when the first European saw this remarkable stone, under circumstances which we shall presently quote in the narrator's own words. The year was, November, 1665, a few years before the decease of "the Grand Monarque," Shah Jehan. The scene was the Palace of Agra, formerly the Metropolis of the Empire, but then the prison of the dethroned and stricken Great Mogul. For seven years he had been kept in close durance ; Murad, his youngest son, had just been murdered by the usurper, Aurung-zeb, his brother, who had stimulated the lad's ambition, in order to accomplish his own designs on the life of both father and son ; Dara, the eldest son of the captive Monarch, a man of great parts, brave, handsome, and gifted, had been betrayed by his brother's contrivance. Hurried ignominiously to Delhi, he was led as a

captive through that city, cast into prison, and treacherously murdered. His son Soliman had suffered a similar fate. Sûjah, the Monarch's second son, whose intellectual and bodily gifts were certainly not inferior to Dara's (and whose beautiful daughter had been passionately wooed by Mohammed, Aurungzeb's son and heir, but had been rejected by her father), had but recently been murdered ; and the bridegroom's father, after contriving to alienate for a time the confidence of the bride in her husband by a groundless invention, actually contrived to kill his own son, and only stopped his murderous course when the bride's untimely death rendered her assassination needless. It is hard to believe that Shah Jehan, whose one redeeming quality was his love for the children of his wife, whom he had named the " Light of the World," and who had been kept informed of the calamities which had befallen his house, should, under the depression of these afflictions have shown a French jeweller his treasures. " These are my jewels," said the classic mother pointing to her children in response to the Princess's exhibition of her gems ; and we would like to credit " the Grand Monarque " with equal feelings of affection. But Tavernier, as will be seen, is explicit in his statement, and though it may be that he had some purpose to serve in his elaboration of the scene, there is no reason whatever to doubt his description of the famous stone.

Without further preface, let us now discuss the data upon which rests the " strange eventful history " of the Great Mogul. Excluding the doubtful Braganza, this splendid stone was unquestionably the largest

diamond of which there is any distinct record. It takes its name from its owner, Shah Jehan, fifth in succession from Baber, founder of the so-called "Mogul" dynasty in Hindustan. As to its early history, there was never any serious doubt until the Koh-i-Nûr was brought to Europe in 1850. Since that time its very identity has been called in question, and, while some authorities continue to regard the two famous stones as distinct, others now hold that they are really one under two different names. There is, however, no real foundation for doubting the individual existence of the two. Evidence to the contrary is as weak as the facts on the other side are strong. The histories of the stones differ in this remarkable respect, that the story of the Koh-i-Nûr may be said to have no beginning, while that of the Great Mogul seems, on the other hand, to have no end. The available data, if duly considered, must satisfy all candid inquirers that they are undoubtedly two distinct gems, having little in common beyond their unusual size, and their simultaneous presence for nearly a hundred years in the Khazâna or treasure-house of the Mogul emperors.

At p. 251 of his translation of François Bernier's *Travels in the Mogul Empire*, Irving Brock observes that "the largest diamond probably ever heard of is one mentioned by Tavernier, who saw it in the possession of Aurung-zeb. It was about as big as a hen's egg, and weighed 900 carats in the rough. This was perhaps the 'unparalleled' diamond which Bernier informs us Emir Jemla presented to Shah Jehan."

The Emir Jemla, here referred to, is the

Mirgimola of Tavernier, a well-known Persian adventurer, who rose to great power in the Court of the Rajah of Golconda, and whose history is inseparably associated with that of the "Great Mogul."* This stone had been found apparently about the year 1650 in the Kollur mine on the Kistna. Soon afterwards it fell into the possession of Jemla, who dealt largely in precious stones, and acquired vast wealth, "by means of his extensive commerce with various parts of the world, as well as by the diamond mines, which he farmed under feigned names. These mines were worked with indefatigable industry, and he was accustomed to count his diamonds by the sack." When Aurung-zeb began about the year 1655 to intrigue both against his father, Shah Jehan, and his three brothers, Dara, Murad, and Sultan Sûjah, he was joined by Emir Jemla, who had become suspected by the King of Golconda, and who consequently sought the first opportunity to withdraw from his power. After dwelling on the important results that flowed

* Dow tells us that Jemla was born in Ardistan, a small place near Ispahan. Though of good family, his parents were very poor, and after acquiring a slight knowledge of letters, he was glad to accept employment from a diamond merchant, who had frequent relations with Golconda, the great emporium of the diamond trade in the 17th century. He thus found his way to the Deccan, where he took to trading on his own account. The wealth thus acquired gave him access to the Court of Kuttûb, King of Tellingana, and of the greater part of the Golconda territory. Here he displayed such talent and ability in the administration of affairs that he was ultimately appointed Vizier, and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of Tellingana. It was in this capacity that he awakened to suspicion of his sovereign, or, as would appear from Tavernier's account to be more probable, the jealousy of the other courtiers, and was thus induced to transfer his fortunes to the rising star of the House of Timur. In Aurung-zeb's service he showed so much loyalty, often under very trying circumstances, that there is reason to believe that the charge of treason and duplicity brought against him at the Court of Golconda was altogether unfounded,

from the alliance of Aurung-zeb and Jemla, Bernier tells us in the passage above referred to by Brock that, "Jemla, who had by his address, contrived to obtain frequent invitations to the Court of Shah Jehan, repaired at length to Agra, and carried the most magnificent presents, in the hope of inducing the Mogul to declare war against the Kings of Golconda and Viziapûr, and against the Portuguese. On this occasion it was that he presented Shah Jehan with that celebrated diamond which has been generally deemed unparalleled in size and beauty." The diamond in question, to which this passage contains the earliest known allusion, all are agreed in identifying with the "Great Mogul," and it is impossible that it could have been the Koh-i-Nûr; for that gem, as will be seen further on, had already been in the possession of the Mogul emperors ever since the time of Baber himself.

The next and last distinct reference to the Great Mogul is by Tavernier, who saw it at the Court of Aurung-zeb in 1665, apparently about ten years after it had passed out of the hands of Emir Jemla, and just one year before the death of Shah Jehan, at that time a prisoner in the fortress of Agra. In his *Six Voyages*,* Tavernier refers in three places to this gem, and as his statements are often incorrectly repeated by writers who have not taken the trouble to consult the original work, it will not be amiss here to quote

* "*Les Six Voyages de Jean-Baptiste Tavernier qu'il a faits en Turquie, en Perse, et aux Indes, pendant l'espace de quarante ans, &c.*, Paris, 1676 and 1682.

the passages *in extenso*. At p. 226, Vol. II., he thus describes the occasion on which he saw and examined the stone :—

“On November 1st, 1665, I was at the palace to take leave of the King. But he sent word to say that he did not wish me to leave without seeing his jewels, since I had seen the splendour of his fête. Early next day there came five or six officers from the Nabob Jafer Khan to summon me to the King’s presence. On my arrival at the Court the two keepers of the royal jewels, of whom I have elsewhere spoken, accompanied me to his Majesty, and after the customary salutations they brought me to a small room at one end of the hall where the King was seated on his throne, and whence he could see us. In this room I found Akel Khan, chief keeper of the State jewels, who on seeing us ordered four of the King’s eunuchs to fetch the jewels which were brought on two large trays, lacquered with gold leaf, and covered with small cloths, made on purpose, one of red velvet, the other of embroidered green velvet. After uncovering and counting over the pieces three several times, an inventory of the same was drawn up by three scribes present on the occasion. For the Indians do everything with great care and composure, and when they see anyone acting in a hurry or irritated they stare at him in silence and laugh at him for a fool.

“The first piece that Akel Khan placed in my hands was the great diamond, which is rose cut, round and very high on one side. On the lower edge there is a slight crack, and a little flaw in it. Its water is fine, and weighs $319\frac{1}{2}$ ratis, which make 280 of our carats,

the rati being $\frac{7}{8}$ of a carat. When Mirgimola, who betrayed his master, the King of Golconda, presented this stone to Shah Jehan, to whom he withdrew, it was in the rough state (*brut*), and at that time weighed 900 ratis, which make $787\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and there were several flaws in it. Had this stone been in Europe it would have been treated differently; for some fine pieces would have been taken from it, and it would have remained heavier [than it now is], instead of which it has been quite ground down. It was Hortensio Borgis* who cut it, for which he was also badly paid. When it was cut he was reproached for having spoilt the stone which might have remained heavier, and, instead of rewarding him for his work, the King fined him 10,000 rupees, and would have taken more if he had possessed more. If Hortensio knew his business well, he would have taken from this large stone some fine pieces without wronging the King, and without having so much trouble to grind it down. But he was not a very skilful diamond cutter."

The second passage occurs at p. 277, where he is describing the diamond mine, "called *Gani* in the language of the country, and *Coulour* in Persian,† and where he tells us that the Great Mogul was found:—

"A number of stones are now found here from 10 to 40 carats, and even occasionally of much larger size. But amongst others, the great diamond which weighed 900 carats before being cut, and which

* *Borgis* is obviously a misprint for *Borgio*, a common Italian name; but King (p. 81) and others write *Borghis*, an impossible form. Hence the three current varieties, *Borgis*, *Borghis*, and *Borgio*, all referring to the same person.

† On this point see Introduction, p. 34.

Mirgimola presented to Aurung-zeb, as I have elsewhere said, had been taken from this mine."

Lastly, the third passage occurs in his account at p. 305 of all the large gems he had anywhere seen. At the head of the list he places the diamond under consideration as "the heaviest of which I have had any knowledge. This diamond belongs to the Great Mogul, who did me the honour of showing it to me with all his other jewels. The form is shown in which it remained after being cut, and having been permitted to weigh it, I found that it weighs $319\frac{1}{2}$ ratis, which make $279\frac{9}{16}$ of our carats. In the rough state it weighed, as I elsewhere said, 907 ratis, which make $793\frac{5}{8}$ carats. This stone presents the form of an egg cut in half."*

The last passage in this paragraph explains the statement made by Brock, and frequently repeated by others, that this stone "was about as big as a hen's egg." But Tavernier does not compare its *size* to that of a hen's egg, but only says that in form it resembled

* Tavernier also refers incidentally to the same stone at p. 290 of Vol. II., where he remarks that, "le diamant du Grand Mogul pèse $279\frac{9}{16}$ carats, est parfait, de bonne eau, de bonne forme, et n'a qu'une petite glace qui est dans l'arrest du tranchant d'en bas du tour de la pierre. Sans cette petite glace il faudroit mettre le premier carat à 160 livres, mais à cause de cela je ne le mets qu'à 150. Et sur ce pied là et selon la règle cy-dessus il revient à la somme de 11,723,278 livres 14 sols et 3 liards. C'est à dire à onze millions sept cent vingt-trois mille deux cent soixante liards. Si ce diamant ne pesoit que 279 carats, il ne vaudroit que 11,676,150 livres, et ainsi ces $\frac{9}{16}$ reviennent à 47,128 livres 14 sols 3 liards." These minute calculations show how carefully Tavernier examined this stone. Yet there are writers who suggest that the greatest expert of the 17th century was mistaken in his estimate of its size, because that estimate does not harmonise with their preconceived notions of what that size ought to be in order to fit in with their theories. To us it seems safe to reject the theories, and accept the facts, based as they are on such unimpeachable authority.

an egg, cut in half.”* This is fully borne out by the illustration which accompanies his description of the stone in the first edition of his work, Vol. II, p. 334.

But there are a few discrepancies in Tavernier's own account, which, however, admit of easy explanation. The *Aurang-zeb* of the second passage is obviously a slip for *Shah Jehan*, for we know from Bernier that it was to the latter prince, and not to his son, that Emir Jemla presented the stone, as is in fact stated by Tavernier himself in the first passage. The 900 *carats* of the same passage is also evidently an error for the 900 *ratis* of No. 1. But the 907 *ratis* = $793\frac{5}{8}$ carats, of No. 3 is not so readily reconciled with the 900 *ratis* = $787\frac{1}{2}$ carats, of No. 1. But as these figures refer to the stone in the rough, they are really of little consequence, and the discrepancy is easily accounted for when we remember that Tavernier saw the stone only after its reduction by Borgio. Hence he knew nothing of it in the rough state, except on hearsay, and he may at different times have heard two different statements regarding its original size.

In any case all these measurements differ enormously from that of Baber's gem, which everybody identifies with the Koh-i-Nûr, and which Baber himself tells us weighed only “eight mishkels,” or about 186 or 187 carats. Yet Kluge, with others, argues for the identity of both stones, on the ground that they were represented as about the same size, and

* His words are : “ Cette pierre est de la mesme forme comme si l'on avait coupé un œuf par le milieu.”

that consequently it was highly improbable that there were two diamonds in the Delhi treasury, each of which weighed about 186 carats. But in order to create this difficulty, Kluge represents Tavernier as reducing his $319\frac{1}{2}$ ratis to 186 carats, whereas in point of fact he reduces them to $279\frac{9}{16}$, or in round numbers to 280 carats. And lest there should be any doubt at all about it, he writes the numbers out in full, thus: "Il pèse trois cent dix-neuf ratis et demi, qui font deux cent quatre-vingts de nos carats." Why, then, except to fabricate an argument, does Kluge write: "He (Tavernier) describes it as a rosette, in the form of an egg cut in half, and weighing $319\frac{1}{2}$ ratis=186 carats."* It is not that Tavernier employs one and Kluge another kind of rati; but in order to get at the required 186 carats of the Koh-i-Nûr, Kluge suppresses Tavernier's rati ($\frac{7}{8}$ to the carat), together with their equivalent of 280 carats, and substitutes his own figures, without informing the reader of the liberty he is taking with the text of the original. And thus vanishes the manipulated difficulty based on the assumed simultaneous presence of two such diamonds of the same unusual size amongst the Great Mogul's crown jewels. The history of these historical gems is in any case often involved in so much obscurity that the gratuitous invention of needless difficulties might well be dispensed with.

It is also asserted by Maskelyne that Tavernier's

* "Er beschreibt ihn als rosette von der form eines halb durchgeschnittenen eies und einem Gewichte von $319\frac{1}{2}$ ratis=186 karat."—Op. Cit., p 241.

description of the Great Mogul does not correspond with its accompanying illustration, which would seem to answer tolerably well to the form of the Koh-i-Nûr before it was re-cut in London. But there must surely be some strange mistake here. The fact that the proper illustrations do not accompany the text in subsequent editions of Tavernier's work may no doubt have caused some mystification. But there can be no possible mistake about the figure of the Great Mogul as given in the first edition of 1776, which answers exactly to the words, "rose-cut, round, and very high on one side." If this description be compared with the models both of the Koh-i-Nûr and of the Great Mogul itself in our possession, all doubts will be at once removed as to the essentially different character of the two crystals.

The above quoted passages from Bernier and Tavernier really embody all the authentic information extant regarding the Great Mogul. Such as it is, it amply suffices to show that this stone is not the Koh-i-Nûr. The two differ absolutely in their origin, history, size, and form. Thus, while the Great Mogul is traced directly to the Coulour mine, the Koh-i-Nûr has a legendary history dating back to the remotest times. The former, when found, weighed at least 787 carats, which was reduced by cutting to 280 carats, whereas the latter when it passed into the hands of Baber was only about 187 carats.* One was round-shaped, rose-cut, of the

* To get over this difficulty Maskelyne suggests that Tavernier may have confounded the *pearl rati* with the *jewellers' rati*, thereby nearly doubling the value of the 319½ ratis, which was the weight of the stone

purest water, with but one little crack and flaw ; the other was an irregular ellipse, very flat, dull and full of flaws." †

Shah Jehan virtually ceased to reign from about 1657 till his death in 1666. But Aurung-zeb allowed him to retain possession of the greater part of his jewellery throughout his imprisonment in Agra. Tavernier tells us that a few days before his coronation the usurper begged his father to lend him some of these treasures for the occasion. At this request, which he took for an insult, and which, under the circumstances, was certainly somewhat cool, Shah Jehan fell into a paroxysm of rage which nearly brought him to his end. "In the excess of his anger he asked several times for a mortar and pestle, saying that he wanted to pound all his gems and pearls, so that Aurung-zeb might never have any of them. But his eldest daughter Begum Saheb, who never forsook him, throwing herself at his feet, prevented him from coming to this extremity and . . . appeased Shah Jehan more in order to preserve the

examined and by him, making it weigh 280 instead of 186 carats, which was the weight of the Koh-i-Nûr before its reduction in London. But it is inconceivable that such an error could have been committed by Tavernier, who was probably the most practised jeweller of the age, and who was constantly using the rati during the forty years which he spent in the East, as a dealer in precious stones. Besides his estimate of the jewellers' rati, which he makes equal to $\frac{7}{8}$ of a carat, nearly corresponds with that of Garcies ab Horto, who was extremely well informed on this point, and who makes the Indian rati equal to 3, and the Portuguese carat equal to 4, grains of wheat.

† Another wild theory is that Borgio by cleavage obtained three stones from the one entrusted to him—the Mogul, the Koh-i-Nûr, and a third which afterwards disappeared. On this it is sufficient to remark that the Koh-i-Nûr, though not then known by this name, came into the hands of the Mogul emperors in 1526, or over 130 years before Borgio reached India. Owing possibly to its intense brilliancy, the diamond seems to have the effect of dazzling or obfuscating the intellect of most writers on the subject.

jewels for herself than to please her brother.”* It has accordingly been asked how the Great Mogul came into Aurung-zeb’s hands before his father’s death ; for we have seen that he exhibited it to Tavernier in November, 1665. But Tavernier nowhere says that Shah Jehan retained *all* his gems, and he even adds that although when mounting the throne Aurung-zeb had only one jewel in his diadem, had he wished to have others placed in it, there was no lack of them. . . . having asked his father for his gems only for the purpose of never returning them to him. Besides there was a good reason why the Great Mogul should have fallen into Aurung-zeb’s hands at the time of his father’s imprisonment. It was presented by Emir Jemla to Shah Jehan certainly not earlier than 1655, or about two years before his

* Bernier (p. 141) relates the circumstances somewhat differently : “ Aurung-zeb was equally unsuccessful in his demand to Shah Jehan for certain jewels, with which he was desirous of completing a piece of workmanship that he was adding to the celebrated throne, so universally admired. The captive monarch indignantly answered that Aurung-zeb should be careful only to govern the kingdom with more wisdom and equity. He commended him not to meddle with the throne, and declared that he would be no more plagued about these jewels, for that hammers were provided to beat them into powder the next time he should be importuned upon the subject.” The “celebrated throne” here referred to was no doubt the famous “peacock throne” begun by Shah Jehan and added to by Aurung-zeb, and elsewhere (p. 306) described by Bernier as “supported by six massive feet said to be of solid gold, sprinkled over with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. I cannot tell you with accuracy the number or value of this vast collection of precious stones, because no person may approach sufficiently near to them, to judge of their water and clearness. But I can assure you that there is a profusion of diamonds, as well as other jewels, and that the throne, to the best of my recollection, is valued at four crores of rupees (£4,000,000). . . . The construction and workmanship of the throne are not correspondent with the materials ; but two peacocks, covered with jewels and pearls are well conceived and executed. The were made by a workman of astonishing powers, a Frenchman by birth, who, after defrauding several of the princes of Europe by means of false gems, which he fabricated with peculiar skill, sought refuge in the Great Mogul’s Court, where he made his fortune.

deposition, and during those two years it was probably in the hands of Borgio, for by the old processes such a large diamond would take fully that time, if not longer, to cut. "Thus," continues King, from whom we are quoting, "almost immediately upon the great stone being put into Borgio's hands, its rightful owner had lost all control over it. In fact had he been able or permitted to superintend the operation, there can be no doubt his experience and taste in such matters would have brought about a widely different result."

The subsequent history of the Great Mogul from the time it was seen by Tavernier in 1665, remains a blank. Henceforth no distinct reference anywhere occurs to it, and although we may presume that it continued in the possession of Aurung-zeb's successors down to the sack of Delhi by Nadir Shah, we have no knowledge of what became of it on that memorable occasion. The authorities are almost unanimous* in assuming that the big stone carried off by the Persian invader, under circumstances to be described further on, was the Koh-i-Nûr. But amongst the spoils may of course have also been the Great Mogul, though no distinct mention is made of the fact. Hence some have thought that it is now amongst the treasures of the Shah of Persia under

* King (p. 79) says that "all the circumstances warrant the belief that the Great Mogul was the grand diamond that Nadir Shah acquired by the ingenious device above related, just before the sack of Delhi in 1739." But here he flatly contradicts himself, for at p. 72, where the "ingenious device" is described, he states that the diamond thus procured by Nadir Shah was the Koh-i-Nûr and not the Great Mogul: "The proud diamond of the Mogul was in the cap of his vassal, and was saluted with the title of 'Koh-i-Nûr,' *Mound of Light*, by his Suzerain."

the name of "Darya-i-Nûr," or "Sea of Light." But it will be seen further on that the Darya-i-Nûr is certainly a different stone.

Others arguing from its form have suggested that it may be the Russian Orloff, an equally untenable theory, as will be made evident when we come to deal with that famous gem.

Our own opinion is that the Great Mogul has ceased to exist as such. It was probably stolen either at the sack of Delhi or at the death of Nadir Shah, and then in order to escape detection its possessors had it broken by cleavage into two or more stones. Its form and especially its great size would facilitate this process, a fate which we know has overtaken more than one other large diamond.* In confirmation of this view, the reader is more particularly referred to the statements of Dr. Beke, Mr. Tennant, and Sir David Brewster regarding the Abbas Mirza diamond.

Barbot states that it was of a very pure water, though of a soft rosy tint, and that it has been estimated at £420,000, while others have suspected that it was not a diamond at all, but a white sapphire or perhaps topaz. But Tavernier was far too good an expert to be mistaken in a matter of this sort, and the suggestion would probably never have been made but for its altogether exceptional size.

* See the account of the Blue diamond.

VI.

THE STAR OF THE SOUTH.

Found by a Negress.—A stone of singular beauty.—Sold for £3,000, ultimately to realise £80,000.—A lovely tint.—The lion of two International Exhibitions, it is afterwards sent to India.—Purchased by the ruler of Baroda.—The Prince's other Treasures.—Diamond Dust poisoning.—Nemesis.



L YING west of the mountains of San do Espinaco is a vast plain. Here the river Velhas has its source, and the New World's largest diamond its origin.

It was picked up in July, 1853, by a negress at work in the mines of the province of Minas-Geraes, Brazil.*

The diamond, when found, presented the general form of a rhombic dodecahedron with very obtuse angles, and twenty-four natural facets, besides certain faint streaks, pointing at a possible octahedric cleavage. In one of the facets there appeared a somewhat deep depression, in which was formerly inserted an octahedral crystal, which from other

* This was the account current at Villa Rica (*Villa Rica*—*Rich Town*), the centre station of this mining province. Another report fixes the exact spot at Bogagem, but after careful research we have failed to identify any such place in Brazil: what is meant is no doubt the river of that name, which rises in the Viadeira mountains, and flows for forty leagues through the province of Goyaz, northwards to the Maranhão or Upper Tocantins.

symptoms, was evidently a true diamond. On the lower surface were two other indentations of a similar character, but not so deep, one of which revealed traces of from three to four different crystals. On the same side was a flat space, where it had probably been removed from the matrix by diluvial action. There were also perceptible a few black specks, due apparently to the presence of titanite iron or volcanic sand. All these circumstances showed plainly enough that it originally formed one of a group of adamantine crystals, fixed in the crevices of certain metamorphic rocks, characteristic of the Brazilian mountain systems.

Such, at least, is the commonly accepted view. But it is unhesitatingly rejected by Barbot, who has made a special study of this gem, and whose opinion is certainly entitled to consideration. "We are certain," he writes, "that this large hollow was merely a solution of continuity in the crystalline layers, and that the other depressions of a slighter character are due to the same cause. The flat part, which seems and really is cleaved by an accidental cause, formed the point of contact with the matrix." The late M. Dufrénoy supposed that this diamond must have formed part of a group of diamantiferous crystals. In this he was mistaken, for diamonds are produced isolated, in the various parts of the matrix, rarely agglomerated or superimposed, nor grafted one on the other, like the pyrites and crystals of spar and quartz.

This stone which, according to the usual method of valuation, ought to be worth nearly £44,000, was

sold in the rough for £35,000 (302 contos de Reis), and reduced by cutting from 254½ to 125 carats, at an expenditure of close upon £500. In the process it assumed an elegant oval form, in which the light is well refracted. It is of unusual length, 35 millimetres by 29 millimetres broad, and 19 in thickness. These measurements, as Barbot remarks, might seem to imply a magnitude superior even to that of the "Regent." Yet this gem is really 13 carats lighter, a fact explained by the perfect harmony of proportions exhibited by the "Regent," and which are missing in the "Star of the South." Nevertheless, it is a pure stone and has, on the whole, been handled with great judgment, although the best possible advantage has not perhaps, been taken of its natural forms. The cutter was Voorsanger, of Mr. Coster's establishment at Amsterdam, and in his hands the diamond lost rather more than half of its original weight. The reflected light is perfectly white, but, strange to say, it assumes by refraction a decided rose tint, very agreeable to the eye. This probably unique phenomenon is due, no doubt, to the peculiar prismatic form imparted to the crystal, perhaps unconsciously, by the cutter.

After its latent beauties were thus revealed to the world, this superb gem was purchased by Messrs. Halphen, and a few other merchants in Paris, who had constituted themselves a syndicate for the purpose. By them it was named the "Estrella do Sud," or "Star of the South." Before reaching them, it had passed in its rough state through several hands, all of whom were more or less benefited by its possession.

Thus, the negress, by whom it was discovered in 1853, was rewarded, according to the usual practice in Brazil, with her freedom,* and to this was afterwards added the further boon of a pension for life, in recognition of the exceptional size and value of her "find." Yet her master, Casimiro de Tal, was at first so little conscious of its true value, that he was induced to part with it for the relatively nominal sum of £3,000. The purchaser deposited it in the Bank of Rio de Janeiro, receiving an advance of no less than £30,000 on its security alone.

The stone ultimately reached the above-mentioned Paris Syndicate, by whom it was shown in the Dutch department of the London Exhibiton of 1862, and in that of Paris in 1867. On both occasions it attracted great attention, and its fame reached the remotest corners of the globe. It was soon afterwards forwarded to India, where a bid of £110,000 was made for it by a large house on behalf of a native rajah. After considerable negotiation, the parties being unable to agree on the terms, the transaction

* "There are many laws and regulations to prevent the negroes concealing and smuggling diamonds. As a means of encouraging honesty, if a negro finds a stone of $17\frac{1}{2}$ carats he is crowned with a wreath of flowers, and led in procession to the manager. Then his freedom is bestowed upon him, plus a suit of clothes and permission to work for wages. If a negro finds one from eight to ten carats weight, he receives two new shirts, a suit of clothes, a hat, and a handsome knife. For smaller but valuable stones other rewards are given. For unfaithfulness, the negroes are beaten with sticks, or have iron bands fastened round their throats; and on repetition of the fault, they are not admitted to the works again. Notwithstanding all these rewards and punishments, one-third of the produce is supposed to be surreptitiously disposed of by the labourers. Manifold are the tricks used by the negroes to appropriate and barter the gems they discover. In the very presence of the overseers, they manage to conceal them in their hair, their mouths, their ears, or between their fingers. Not unfrequently they will throw them away, and return for them at the dead of night." —Streeter's "*Gems and Precious Stones*."

fell through, and the stone was returned to Messrs. Halphen, who acted throughout in the name of the Syndicate, and not on their own account as is usually supposed.

During the exhibition of the gem in India, glowing accounts of its rare size and beauty had reached the late ex-Gaikwar of Baroda, next to the eccentric Charles, Duke of Brunswick, the greatest diamond fancier of modern times. This prince gave a commission, which was ultimately entrusted to Mr. E. Dresden, of London and Paris, to buy the Star of the South for eight lakhs of rupees, or £80,000, Mr. Dresden, thereupon, applied through Mr. Halphen, to the Syndicate, who, although they had already declined £110,000, after some *pourparlers* were induced to accept the Gaikwar's offer. On this subject we were favoured on June 14, 1881, with a communication from Mr. Dresden, the subjoined extract from which will be found peculiarly interesting :

"A few years after the death of the late Emperor Napoleon, his Empress sold through Smith, Fleming and Co., her famous collection of diamonds (amongst which were a pair of splendid drops), to that same ruler of Baroda, so that he now possesses a matchless quantity of diamonds, including the Star of the South, which I had the commission to buy, and for which I paid Halphen in Paris two million francs (£80,000), inclusive, of course, of the mountings, &c., which were very costly."

It may be added that the ill-luck which often seems to follow the possessors of great diamonds swiftly overtook the new owner of the Star of the

South. It will be in the recollection of our readers that this notorious Mahratta prince fell into serious trouble a few years ago for his murderous practice of destroying refractory subjects with diamond dust. Having tried a similar expedient to get rid of the British resident, Colonel Phayre, whose presence in Baroda acted as an inconvenient check on his sanguinary propensities, the Gaikwar was arraigned before a specially constituted tribunal, found guilty, and deposed from the throne of his ancestors by a mandate from the beneficent lady paramount of India.

VII.

DU TOIT I.

Beautiful but a little "Off-Colour"—South African Diamonds
—Their Origin and Character—Enormous Increase of—
Estimated Value of "Claims" in the Mining Districts
—Peculiar Delicacies of the Straw Tint—Stones that
Rival those of Brazil and India—"Bort."



THE latest great "find" in South Africa, and exceeded in size only by one other stone from that region, was discovered in 1878 on a "claim" at Du Toit's Pan, where a greater proportion of large diamonds has been produced than in any other diamantiferous district in the world. It is of a light "off-colour,"* and free from flaws, but not of the finest water, though by skilful treatment it may prove a magnificent stone. Since its discovery, the value of the claims, especially in the Kimberley district, has risen enormously. Claims originally disposed of at the rate of £50 per twenty square feet are now realising many thousand pounds. *Precious Stones and Gems* contains some exclusive and interesting information upon South African diamonds. Without trespassing unduly upon the chapter which deals with the subject from various points of view, there are a few facts that may very properly be repeated in this place. It is

* A large proportion of the African diamonds are what are called "off-coloured" stones, usually exhibiting a delicate straw tinge, still, often very beautiful when skilfully cut.

well ascertained that these diamonds were originally developed in an igneous matrix belonging probably to that large series of eruptive rocks which have burst further through the Karoo strata at so many points in South Africa. In the dry diggings the stones are possibly found almost in their original positions. Those which reward the digger in the river beds have probably been washed down by running water, and there are superficial deposits here and there in which ice has been the means of transportation. Such, at least are the various hypotheses which have been put forward in explanation of the somewhat singular distribution of the diamonds at the Cape.

Hardly a dozen years have past since these new fields were discovered. During that time the yield of fine stones has been enormous. The first notable one was the "Dudley," the next the "Stewart." The latter gem is the only one which takes precedence in size of the Du Toit I. Although many of the Cape diamonds are "straw coloured," a very fair proportion are of the first water, bearing comparison with some of the finest gems of Brazil and the Indies. Even the yellowish ones are of a peculiar delicacy of tint which is very attractive in a well cut stone. It has been estimated that 20 per cent. of the Cape stones are of the finest quality, 15 of the second, and 20 of the third, the remainder being what is technically called "bort." It is as well to add that all diamonds which are not sufficiently pure for cutting are classed under the term "bort." They are crushed into powder, which is used for grinding diamonds, and also in the engraving of gems of exceptional hardness.

Since the discovery of the Du Toit I., two quarter claims in the vicinity of the spot where it was dug out have been sold for £20,000. The competition for mining rights continues to be severe in other districts, and the latest rewards of enterprising investments have justified the faith of both capitalist and labourer.

VIII.

THE GREAT TABLE.

Tavernier's account of the "Table" Diamond—Its Size, Shape, and Value—Shah Jehan's Invasion of the Deccan—Fire and Sword—Raising Money to pay Tribute to the Victor—The Parsees and the English—Where is the Great Gem to-day?



IN Tavernier's list of the "largest and finest diamonds and rubies seen by him in Europe and Asia," this stone occupies the third place, (II. 305). Of it he remarks: "It is a stone which weighs $176\frac{1}{2}$ mangelins, which make $242\frac{5}{16}$ of our carats. The mangelin, as I have said, is the weight used in the kingdoms of Golconda and Visapûr, and it is equivalent to $1\frac{3}{8}$ of our carats. When in Golconda, in the year 1642, I was shown this stone, and it is the largest diamond I have seen in India in the hands of dealers. The owner allowed me to make a casting of it, which I sent to Surat to two of my friends, calling their attention to the beauty of the stone and to its price, which was 500,000 rupees or 750,000 livres of our money. I received a commission from them, in case it was pure and fine water, to offer 400,000 rupees for it. But it was impossible to come to terms at this price, although I believe that it might have been had if they were willing to offer 450,000."

This is all that Tavernier tells us of this remarkable stone, which is illustrated in the first, though not in subsequent editions of his work. The representation shows it to be table-cut, so that it may be easily recognized, should it again come to light in India or elsewhere ; for since the time of Tavernier it has not been seen by any European expert. Its peculiar form would easily allow of its being reduced by cleavage to two or more stones, a fate that has possibly befallen it. Many stones have from time to time been so treated, for the express purpose of destroying their identity, even though their intrinsic value has thereby been greatly reduced. A notable instance is the French "Blue Drop," which was of such an unique character, that after it was stolen from the Garde Meuble, in 1792, it could not be exposed for sale without incurring the risk of instant detection. Hence the necessity of altering its appearance by some process of reduction, as fully explained in our account of the "Hope Blue." In the same way the great "Table," also a stone of an unique type, at least as regarded its size and peculiar shape, was very likely broken up by cleavage into two or more stones, and it is by no means impossible that the Russian "Table," which will be described in a later chapter, may be one of those fragments. Pictures and other rare artistic objects are known to have been manipulated in analogous ways for like purposes. One of the numerous and vexatious charges brought by his enemies against Benvenuto Cellini, when employed at the court of Francis I., seems to have been of this character. The method which he

adopted for bringing the wearisome and ruinous suits against him to a close, was highly characteristic. He tells us in his famous autobiography, that being unable to obtain any redress from the law, "I had recourse to a long sword, which I had by me. The first that I attacked was that person who commenced that unjust and irritating suit ; and one evening I so hacked him about the legs and arms, taking care, however, not to kill him right out, that I deprived him of the use of both his legs." Having got rid of another party to the suit, in a similar summary manner, he exclaims, with grim humour, "For this and every other blessing, I returned thanks to the Supreme Being !"

At the period referred to by Tavernier, Golconda was in a deplorable condition. Shah Jehan, whose miserable end (hardly less wretched than that of Shakespeare's King Lear), has generally excited so much commiseration, that his infamous treachery and indescribable inhumanity, are lost sight of, had, only three years before Tavernier's visit, collected an immense force to invade the Deccan. Every country that was overrun by his troops was delivered to fire and sword. "One hundred and fifteen towns and castles were taken in the course of the year, and the kings of Beejapoor and Golconda, to appease the conqueror, renounced their rank as sovereign princes, and received commissions from the emperor of the Moguls." This was but the beginning of sorrow. It was between this eclipse and the subsequent utter destruction of these renowned kingdoms, under Mir Jemla, and Aurungzeb's eldest son, Mohammed, that Tavernier saw the royal gem under notice, in the hands of a private

diamond merchant. How came this stone in private hands? The answer is not far to seek. The tribute, on the first signing of the treaty, was up to the full amount. Mir Jemla had probably suggested this, as a severe lesson, with a view to bring his royal master to his knees; but the fallen king had gall enough to seize the person of the revolted minister's son, and the war between Katb and Mir Jemla was a war *à outrance*. The annually recurring tribute forced the court and king to raise money on jewels not disclosed to the Mogul conqueror, and as Tavernier was known certainly to the Parsee merchants of India, and had in a measure gained the confidence of the most English of all Asiatics, it is not surprising that, European as he was, he should be shewn, and even allowed to take a model of this stone. We venture to doubt whether Tavernier could have secured it for an added £5,000 to the offer he made, with a view to purchase, considering the wealth and stable character of the opulent merchants in Western India. It was said that a *Turvee* or Bheel chief carried it to the city of Golconda, and commenced his negotiations by an interview with a "Havildar," a commander of horse, a native of his own tribe. This is probably true. The Bheels dwelt, and still dwell, in the fastnesses of the Western Ghauts, and along the affluents of the Upper Godavery, where most probably the stone was found.

As already stated, it is probable that this stone has been broken up, in order to baffle all efforts to trace its identity, though some Orientals differ from this explanation of its disappearance. It is estimated that there are more than 120,000 families of Parsees

residing within the limits of what was termed, in the first quarter of this century, the "Presidency of Bombay," and in that capital alone there were 6,000 families. No other class of natives has connected itself so intimately with the English. The fire which blazed in the burning bush, but consumed it not, is still the emblem of the Supreme Being they worship. They learn English and speak it idiomatically. They master also the Gujerati tongue, which prevails about the Gulfs of Cutch and Cambay, and a large tract of the western coast ; and, although their religion indisposes them to become working jewellers, they value, as Europeans do, beautiful things in nature and art. That the Parsees would resist the outrageous bartering tricks of the native, is characteristic, but that a magnificent gem in their possession would be broken up is questioned. Then where is the great "Table" diamond ? Certainly not advertised, if in Persia, nor paraded, if in Bombay, Gujerat, or Beejapoor.

IX.

THE REGENT OF PORTUGAL.

The Slave and the Diamond—Punishments and Rewards in Mining—How Bahia became famous—Discovery of the Regent by a Negro—He is Pensioned and obtains his Freedom.



leading figure in the history of Brazilian diamonds is the slave. Negro and negress, they both appear as discoverers of some of the most remarkable of the great gems. This arises from the fact that the miners were chiefly slaves. In the early days of diamond hunting on the Rio-das-Velhas, as a means of encouraging honesty, if a negro found a stone of $17\frac{1}{2}$ carats, he was crowned with a wreath of flowers, and led in procession to the manager. His freedom was given to him, and he was dressed in a new suit of clothes. For "unfaithfulness," which meant the crime of appropriating diamonds the slaves were beaten with sticks, and subjected to other physical torture. But in spite of all kinds of precautions and punishments a third of the produce of the mines was supposed to be stolen, and it is so to this day. It was a "cunning slave" who revealed the treasures of Minas-Geraes, and established the fame of Bahia. He was of the former province, though he worked as an agricultural labourer in the last-mentioned district. Diamonds had been found here, but the Portuguese minister, Marquis de Pombal, would not permit a regular

exploration for them, fearing that mining might eclipse agriculture, which he esteemed as of the first importance. Noticing that the soil of this region and that of his native place were similar in appearance, the slave went home, and found Minas-Geraes yielded diamonds in abundance. He fled from his master, and offered 7,000 carats of diamonds for sale in a distant city, whereupon he was arrested on suspicion of having stolen them. He would not confess whence he had obtained them. It was soon concluded that he had found them in some spot, the whereabouts of which was unknown except to himself. His master outwitted him by restoring him without punishment to his occupation at Bahia. Then he had the slave watched, and the immense diamantiferous value of Bahia and Minas-Geraes was discovered, and within a year afterwards 25,000 diamond hunters were at work in the former district, and for a long time they collected as much as 1,450 carats a day.

It was a slave who discovered the diamond known as the Regent of Portugal. The history of the stone is very obscure, and has been rendered more so by those writers who have confused it with the Braganza. Like that gem of doubtful reputation, it seems to have been found in the year 1775, in, or near the river Abaité, a few miles north of the Rio Plata. The finder was a poor negro, who was rewarded with his freedom, and a yearly pension of £50. The gem is of round shape, weighs 215 carats, and its value has been estimated at 396,800 guineas.

X

THE JAGERSFONTEIN.

Diamond Robberies at the Cape—Receivers and Illicit Dealers—A Serious Question for Companies—A 209 Carat Stone Stolen—Chase of the Thieves—Singular Capture and Discovery of the Stone—Life at the Diamond Fields—Singular Shopkeepers—Kafirs and their Masters—The Great Stone sold for £15—Confession of the Thieves.



URING the month of December, 1881 there appeared in the London papers a dispatch from the Cape Diamond Fields which stated, in half a dozen lines, the fact that two thieves, having stolen a diamond of 209 carats had been captured with the stone in their possession. The story is interesting, more particularly as an illustration of the risk in diamond mining to which we have previously referred, and which will crop up again during our investigations, namely, that of robbery. From the very earliest days diamond seekers, slaves, or free-men, employed by princes or companies, have yielded to the temptation of concealing their most valuable discoveries. At the South African Fields to-day this incentive to dishonesty is increased by the existence of an active system of dealing in stolen stones. It is an axiom of English law that the receiver is as bad as the thief; but in Cape Colony the former seems to flourish even more securely than he does in England.

“Illicit Diamond Buying” is quite a business in South Africa. The police have done a good deal to reduce the nefarious operations of the receivers at Kimberley; but *The Friend of the Free State*, in an editorial article, recently complains that at Jagersfontein, the illicit traffic is carried on without let or hindrance. Says this colonial journal, under date, December 1st, 1881 :—“Some of the best companies are paying out £300 weekly for expenses, which is about recouped by the diamonds handed over and sold on account of the company; but there is little or no profit, and, consequently, no dividends. Now, it is not too much to suspect that the larger diamonds are stolen, the proceeds of sale of which would, perhaps, yield a handsome dividend. It is passing strange, too, that Kimberley has, according to the telegrams and the public journals, yielded more large white stones since the working of Jagersfontein than before. Even the famous ‘Porter-Rhodes’ diamond had to remain in its matrix at Kimberley, until Jagersfontein produced large first-water stones! We understand from correspondents, and from gentlemen recently from Fauresmith and Jagersfontein, that the arrangements of the illicit diamond buying are perfect between that mine and Kimberley; and, seeing that the crime of illicit diamond buying is not included in the extradition treaty between this state and Griqualand West, they are likely to remain so! There is also a good deal of righteous indignation among those who are claimholders, diggers, and shareholders in the various companies, and some even go so far as to assert that

'lynching' is not too bad for those who are aiding and abetting 'boys' and overseers to steal their employers' goods. We are, however, afraid that public opinion is not so much against the dishonest I. D. B's as one would think. If the illicit diamond buying hurt the traders—instead of enriching them!—as much as it does the digger, those who are engaged in the unholy traffic would have been wiped off the face of the earth long ago. When all classes benefit by it, it is vain to expect that a speedy end will be made of it. Can this last long? We very much doubt it, for the expenses of working are now so enormous that in nine cases out of ten no dividends are paid. The question then arises, How long will this state of things be permitted to last? There are but two ways out of the difficulty: either do away with the illicit altogether or stop digging, which is being carried on at a loss, even if the Kimberley, Du Toit's Pan, De Beers and Jagersfontein shopkeepers have to close their establishments, and the churches, chapels, clubs, theatres, hotels, and other public places of resort have to be shut up altogether! One or other of the two things must happen soon, and the sooner it takes place the better. Perhaps, after all, 'our civilization is a failure,' and the *digging* for diamonds should be done by those who are the owners of the claims; and maybe the illicit diamond buying is the only natural outcome of men wishing to be rich without the trouble of *working* for money."

It is the incident of the robbery of the 209 carat stone that called forth these remarks. The story runs thus: Mr Frames is a private digger at Jagersfontein; that is, he has a claim of his own, apart from a company

and employs diggers. On the 15th of November he was informed that he was being robbed. It was more particularly mentioned that at that very time he had just been plundered of several diamonds, and among them one weighing probably 200 carats. On the following day the Government Inspector received information to the same effect from a different source. He and Mr. Frames compared notes, and found that they had sufficient evidence to justify them in having the suspected parties apprehended; but it was agreed, in order to secure the diamond, to give the thieves the chance of getting some distance on the road to Kimberley, where it was said they were going to sell it. Several young men, diggers and others, were sent on and stationed somewhere along the road to intercept the culprits. The result is related by Mr. G. S. Armstrong, manager of the Fauresmith Company. He says: "I voluntarily assisted to capture the accused thieves, Jacob Kleb and Frederick Adamson. A plan was made to allow them to go to a certain distance and then apprehend them. The accused took the Koffyfontein road to Kimberley. We had made a circuit, and were returning, when we met the accused, about three miles this side of Swanepoel's. The distance from here to Swanepoel's is about four hours on horseback, or twenty-four miles. My comrade Dykes and myself pretended to be drunk. Kleb asked how far it was to the house? Dykes tried to answer in Dutch, saying, '*a klein beetje farder.*' Dykes' horse was almost knocked up. Mine, being better, I crossed country to head the cart which Kleb and Adamson

were driving, Dykes following the cart. It was about half-past nine when we came to Swanepoel's. We found the cart outspanned, and sent in one of the other party, which had now joined us, to see if the accused were there. He gave us the signal that they were. We went up to the door, six of us, and went in. The two accused were sitting at a table having a singsong, a darkey lady sitting on the right. There was also a travelling Jew. On going in we covered them with our revolvers. Mr. Dykes (who could not read Dutch) told them we had a warrant for their apprehension. Kleb asked for what? Mr. Frames then read the warrant in Dutch. We next handcuffed the accused. We took Kleb into another room and searched him, a few being left to guard the prisoners. We found no diamonds on him. We then searched Adamson, but found no diamonds on him. We brought the woman into the room, and asked Mrs. Swanepoel to search her. Mrs. Swanepoel said she was afraid, so we had to do it ourselves. We found no diamonds on the woman. We took the others out of the room into the room where Kleb was. We searched carpet-bag, &c. Kleb's were the first we searched. We found no diamonds. I saw a side-bag lying on a bed in another room, and asked the woman if it was hers? The bag is the same as is now before the Court. The woman said the bag did not belong to her, nor to Adamson. I picked it up and took it to the room where Kleb was. I asked Kleb if the bag belonged to him. He said, 'yes.' I opened it, and pulled out a silk handkerchief, and then a pair of trousers. The trousers produced by the Court are

the same. I asked Kleb if the trousers were his? He said, 'Yes.' I put the trousers on the table. Mr. Wilson was by my side. He commenced searching. I was going to the other room when Wilson shouted. I do not know what he said ; but, knowing there was something up, rushed back. Wilson was excited. I don't know what he said. I was also excited. He (Wilson) had a diamond in his hand. I am not certain from whom I got it, but I got hold of it. Mr. Wilson said he found it in one of the pockets of the trousers. We searched the cart, after which we took the prisoners and brought them back to Jagersfontein, and handed them over to the police."

The stone weighed $209\frac{1}{4}$ carats. The way in which information of its existence and robbery was obtained, may be gathered from the evidence given before the police magistrate, by a Mr. Phillip Anthony Rivers, who related how he went into a drinking shop where Adamson and others were talking about diamonds. They openly spoke of a large stone which Kleb was going to take to Kimberley. Adamson keeps a shop opposite to the one of which Rivers is the owner. One night after the conversation referred to, he says :—"I remember a kafir coming to me one night, between nine and ten. The kafir asked me the price of a blanket. I showed him one. He said he would come some other day and buy it. I looked at him, he made sign and said, 'Baas, I want to see you.' He went out of my shop, and I followed. He said he had something, but was afraid of me. I asked him how it was he was afraid of me? 'Why, because,' he replied, 'I have been to the other shop,' pointing

to Adamson's, 'and it is closed.' I told him to show me what he had got. He said it was a large diamond, and showed me the bowl of his pipe, and said it was as large as that. I told him to take it out and show it to me. He said, 'No, I am afraid.' Afterwards he said he would go and fetch the diamond, which was hidden under a stone. I was not to go to sleep; he would be back presently. As he passed Adamson's door it opened, and a kafir came out by the name of Woolwash, I think. The two talked a short time, and then went into Adamson's shop. The other side-door of the shop opened shortly afterwards. I saw the same boy that had been with me come out. I knew him by his white trowsers, which had stripes on them. Two other kafirs also came out. The first passed the dwelling-house of Adamson. I saw men going to Adamson's house. The dwelling-house is about five yards from the shop. A little time afterwards the kafir who had the stone returned to Adamson's shop. He went in at the back door. My boy (a Bushman) was with me. I told him he might go to bed. Next morning I asked my boy if he had seen the kafir who had the big diamond? He said he had seen him in Adamson's place, and saw him go to the tent where Adamson's kafirs stayed. I sent my boy to the tent to tell the kafir I wanted to see him. My boy came back and told me the kafir would not come. I stood on my stoop and watched, and saw the boy going to Adamson's shop. I called out to him 'how is it with the big diamond you didn't bring?' He said, 'It's too late, the baas has the diamond,' pointing to Adamson's shop. I asked him if he had

sold it? He replied, yes. I asked how much he got for it. He answered, it was not yet all settled.

It created quite a sensation in court when it was proved that Adamson only gave £15 for the stone; while from further evidence it was shown that he expected to get £5000 for it at Kimberley.

Since the committal of the prisoners for trial, they have confessed to having sold within the last two months, diamonds of, respectively, 65, 10, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ carats in weight for £1,200; and two of $19\frac{1}{2}$ carats each, and one of $21\frac{1}{2}$ carats for £375 at Kimberley.

X.

THE ORLOFF.

A Royal Lover's Gift—Prince Orloff and the Czarina Catharine—An Imperial Gem—Fable of the Temple of Brama—A French Grenadier's Plot—The costly Eye of an Idol stolen—A Great Diamond on its Travels—The Adventurer, Khojeh Raphael—Prince Orloff Purchases the Gem to restore his favour at Court—£90,000 and £4,000 a year is paid for the Stone—Another Grenadier—The Peacock Throne—Shah Jehan again—A Merchant Adventurer and Warrior—The desolating war of the Deccan—Royal Freebooters—A tragic end—The Koh-i-Nûr and Koh-i-Tûr—The Moon of Mountains.



THE rays of light which penetrate this brilliant are not more deflected, distorted, and confusing than is the history of the birth and early destination of the gem; and to add still more to the perplexity, there is inseparably attached to its very name a scandal which, like the stone itself, appears to be about the only solid reality on which we can rest. Prince Orloff's love intrigue with the Czarina, Catherine the Second of Russia, is a well-known page in the history of Imperial courts.* The temporary cloud that gathered about his relations with

* *Orlov*, sometimes spelt *Orloff*, and generally pronounced *Arloff*, is the name of a family remarkable in Russian history. Its founder was a certain Ivan Orel, or Eagle, who in the reign of Peter the Great, was a private soldier among the *Strelitzes*, or Archers, who formed a body in the Russian, analogous to the Janissaries in the Turkish empire. At the time their destruction was accomplished, Peter the Great employed himself in beheading many of them with his own hand, on a long beam of wood, which served as a block for several at a time. It is a current story in

his royal mistress was dispelled by the brilliant rays of a lover's gift, dazzling enough for Gœthe to have made it the pendant that tempted Marguerite.

In every respect the Orloff is the most remarkable of the great Russian diamonds. It forms the chief ornament in the Imperial sceptre. From this circumstance it is sometimes called the "Sceptre" diamond. Its position is immediately beneath the golden eagle, which surmounts the symbol of regal

Russia, that Ivan was one of those doomed to death, and that on being called on to kneel down to receive the blow, he kicked away a head which was still remaining on the beam, with the observation, "*If this is my place, it ought to be clear.*" Struck with his coolness, Peter spared the intended victim's life and placed him in a regiment of the line, where by his bravery, he won his way to the rank of officer, which brought with it that of noble. His son Gregory Ivanovich, rose to be governor of Novgorod and had five sons, of whom two were especially remarkable. Gregory Gregoryevich Orlov, born in 1734, entered the army, was engaged in the Seven Years' War, and was sent to St. Petersburg with Count Schwerin, at the time the Count was taken prisoner. The Grand Duchess Catherine, at that time the wife of the heir to the throne, saw Orlov, who was distinguished for the manly beauty of his person, and he became her favourite. The Orlovs, both Gregory and his brother, took part in the sudden revolution of the 9th of July, 1762, which put an end to the short reign of Peter III., and raised his wife—soon to become his widow—to the throne as the Empress Catherine. After that event, honours were showered upon Orlov, who was the father of the Empress's child, the Count Bobrinski. He aspired to become her acknowledged husband, and share the throne, but this wish, which was apparently at times, near to its accomplishment, was finally thwarted by the opposition of her advisers, if not by her own reluctance. In 1771. Orlov really distinguished himself by the judgment and energy of his measures against the plague in Moscow, whither he repaired in person, to give orders on the spot, at the time the epidemic was raging. In the next year his haughtiness and assumption in negotiating with the Turks at Tokshani, occasioned affairs to take a bad turn, and he himself broke off the Conferences to hasten back to St. Petersburg, on hearing that, during his absence, he was being supplanted by a fresh favourite. He was met on his way by the Empress's orders, to repair to his seat at Gatchina, and she afterwards sent him to the palace of Tsarskoe Selo, where he lived in oriental splendour, received the title of Prince, and was addressed as "Your Highness." When Potemken rose to the height of power, Orlov married, and travelled abroad, but lost his wife, returned to St. Petersburg, where he resided at the Marble Palace, which had been pre-ented to him by the Empress, and finally died in 1783 after having been for some time out of his senses.—*English Cyclopædia*,

power. It is also occasionally spoken of as the "Amsterdam," from the place where it was purchased for the Russian crown, under circumstances which will be hereafter detailed. In size, it ranks first amongst European gems; in beauty it yields only to the "Regent," while for romantic interest it rivals the "Koh-i-Nûr" itself. Its early history is involved in great obscurity, and seems to have got somehow inextricably involved in that of the "Moon of Mountains," another great diamond in the Russian regalia. The "Moon of Mountains," however, reached Europe through Persia, whereas, there can be little doubt that the "Orloff" found its way direct from India to Holland and thence to Russia. In all current accounts of its original discovery, however, the circumstances are related in such a confused way, that it has hitherto been impossible to fix its first definite appearance. The date of its arrival in Europe, and of its purchase by Prince Orloff for the Empress Catherine II., are demonstrated by the subjoined passage from a letter dated January 2nd, 1776, from the Hague, and quoted by Boyle in the *Museum Britannicum* (London, 1791):—"We learn from Amsterdam that Prince Orlov* made but one day's stay in that city, where he bought a very large brilliant for the Empress, his sovereign, for which he paid to a Persian merchant there the sum of 1,400,000 florins, Dutch money. A florin in Holland is valued at 20d."

Dutens, writing about this time, tells us that "this

* This is the German spelling, to be pronounced *Orlov*, or rather *Arlou*, *w* in that language being equivalent to our *v*. But the true Russian sound seems best represented by *f* or *ff*, hence the general form *Orloff*

diamond was said to have formed one of the eyes of the famous statue of Scheringam in the Temple of Brama.* These words—"un des yeux de la fameuse statue de Scheringam dans le Temple de Brama," have been copied, with the usual variations by subsequent writers, who have seldom asked themselves what this "famous statue of Scheringam" could be, or where "the Temple of Brama," was situated, which contained it. The word in Kluge becomes "Sherigan," while in King it assumes the form of "Sheringham, and, from a statue or idol, is transformed to a town.† But after a careful investigation of all the circumstances we have come to the conclusion that there never was a statue or idol named Scheringam or Sherigan, nor any town named Sheringham. The true form of the word seems unquestionably to be *Srirangam*, in English usually written *Seringham*, and this Seringham is neither a statue, an idol, nor a town, but a fortified island in Mysore, formed by the river Cavery and its branch the Colerûn, two miles north of Trichinopoly. At the western extremity of this island stands a magnificent pagoda or Hindu temple, with seven distinct enclosures, lofty towers, a gilded cupola, and numerous dwellings of Brahmins, the whole enclosed within an outer wall some four miles in circumference. This is the Hindu temple that has been transformed to the "statue of Scheringham," and town of "Sheringham,"

* *Des Pierres Précieuses et des Pierres Fines*—Nouvelle édition, Florence, 1783.

† The expression in King is "one of the eyes of the great idol at Sheringham."

from the chief idol in which was abstracted the "Orloff" Diamond. According to Dutens' account, a French grenadier, having deserted the Indian service, found employment in the neighbourhood of the temple, where he soon learnt from native report that the sacred edifice contained a celebrated idol of the Hindu god Sri-Ranga,* whose eyes were formed by two large diamonds of inestimable value. These he determined to seize, but no Christians being admitted beyond the fourth enclosure of the pagoda, in order to effect his purpose he assumed the character of a native devotee, and affected great veneration for this particular divinity. By this means he gradually secured the unlimited confidence of the unsuspecting Brahmins, and at last procured the appointment of guardian to the inner shrine containing the object of his special attentions. Taking advantage of a stormy night, he laid sacrilegious hands on the deity entrusted to his watchful care, and wrenched one of the glittering eyes from its socket, leaving the other undisturbed, either because he was interrupted at his work, or because he discovered that the corresponding orb was mere "paste." With his costly prize he escaped through the raging tempest to the English army, then encamped at Trichinopoly,† and thence to

* Whence the name of the island, Srirangam, in which the temple was situated. The same divinity gives his name to the still more famous city of *Seringapatam*, that is, Sri-Ranga-Pattan, or "City of Sri-Ranga," which is also situated in Mysore, and on the banks of the same river Cavery, but much nearer its source.

† Dutens (p. 37) writes "Trichinapeuty," a place which has no existence except in the works on precious stones published since the time of that writer. Dutens also speaks of a town called *Gondeleur*, through which the grenadier passed on his way to Madras. This town I have failed to identify, unless it be the Gudaluru of the natives (Angelice

Madras, where he was glad to dispose of the gem for £2,000, to an English sea captain, who brought it to London, where he sold it to a Jew for £12,000. Here the story again becomes clouded, and in fact mixed up with the adventures of the "Moon of Mountains." The Armenian, Shafrass, who, as will be presently seen, had nothing to do with the "Orloff," is suddenly introduced, instead of a Persian merchant, who purchased this stone from the Jew, and brought it to Amsterdam. The merchant here referred to was probably the notorious Khojeh Raphael, of Armenian extraction, but born at Julfa, a suburb of Ispahan. This Khojeh was some years afterwards met in Leghorn by the Persian traveller, Mirza Abu Taleb Khan, who describes him as "a complete old scoundrel, who had seen a great deal of the world, and understood a number of languages. He had left Persia when a young man, and had gone by sea to Surat; thence across the peninsula to Bengal. After residing there some time he made a voyage to England, and from that country went to Russia; and after travelling over great part of Europe, at length settled as a merchant in Leghorn."*

It was on his way from England to Russia that Khojeh met Prince Orloff in Amsterdam, and induced him to purchase the Indian gem for his mistress, the

Cudalor or Gudalur), which lies on the Bay of Bengal, 15 miles S.S.W. of Pondicherry, and about midway between Trichinopoly and Madras. If the surmise be correct, the mention of such a place would go far to strengthen the verisimilitude of Dutens' story, on which much needless discredit has been thrown. It would have been a most likely place for the Frenchman to have passed through on his way to Madras.

* *Travels in Asia, Africa, and Europe*—London, 1814, Vol. II., p. 301.

Czarina, Catherine II. Orloff was himself at the time also on his travels. Having fallen under the displeasure of Catherine, he had absented himself from Court until the storm should blow over. Khojeh's offer was now eagerly accepted, as affording an excellent opportunity for recovering the favor of the empress, who is reported to have already declined the purchase as too costly, but who now accepted the jewel at the hands of her illustrious subject. Orloff paid the merchant £90,000 in cash, besides procuring him an annuity of £4,000. According to some accounts a patent of nobility was added. But it will be seen that this honour was reserved for the Armenian, Shafrass, in connection with the "Moon of Mountains" diamond. Some writers also state that the "Orloff" was at one time set in the throne of Nadir Shah, and that after his murder it was stolen by a French grenadier, who escaped with it to Madras. In order to substantiate this story, it would be necessary to assume that there were two French grenadiers concerned in the theft of two of the largest diamonds in the world, that both of them fled to Madras, and that both also sold their plunder for the the same sum of £2,000 to an English skipper. Of course nobody will believe this, and we shall see that Nadir Shah's gem was not taken to India, but from India, and that no French grenadier was concerned in its theft.

King writes "certain it is that Nadir Shah brought the "Orloff" back amongst the spoils of Delhi, along with the "Koh-i Nûr." This statement must also be rejected as absolutely erroneous, originating

out of the strange muddle in which the stories of the "Orloff" and "Moon of Mountains" have become involved, and from which our accounts of the two stones will, we trust, finally rescue them.

Professor Maskelyne, who carefully examined it, assured King that the "Orloff" was an Indian cut stone, all the facets exhibiting the blunt edges and rounded surfaces that mark the style. Concentrated rows of triangular facets are disposed on the upper surface, and corresponding four-sided facets on the lower surface. It is about the size of a pigeon's egg, with a slight yellow tinge, and in shape so like Tavernier's "Great Mogul," that some writers have supposed the two may be one and the same stone. But this theory cannot be seriously entertained in the face of the vast difference in their respective sizes, the "Great Mogul" weighing 280, and the "Orloff" 193 carats only. Nor is it to be supposed that the former, after leaving Borgio's hands, was without any obvious motive, again entrusted to a cutter, and by him reduced by 87 carats, while preserving its exact shape and outlines. Otherwise it is conceivable that after the sack of Delhi by Nadir Shah, the "Great Mogul" might have found its way from the Imperial treasury to the far-famed temple of Sri-Ranga in Mysore.

The true name of the "Orloff" is said to be the "Koh-i-Tûr," or "Mount Sinai," a circumstance which lands us in fresh difficulties; for Aurung-zeb is reported to have possessed a large diamond of this name, which he set in one of the eyes of the peacock overshadowing his throne. On this point Murray quotes the subjoined curious passage from a manuscript

paper by Mr. Whittaker, son of the historian of Craven, who had long resided in India :—

“ The Prince Aulumgeer (Aurang-zeb) in 1658 deposed his father Shah Jehan, emperor of Delhi, and usurped his throne. He caused to be constructed the famous ‘ Takht-i-Taûs,’ or ‘ Peacock Throne,’ which represented in appropriate jewels a peacock with its head overlooking, and its raised and spread tail overshadowing the person of the emperor when sitting on the throne. The natural hues of the bird were exquisitely imitated by the richest gems of the world, and the eyes were supplied by two celebrated diamonds, the largest known, called (as every Asiatic double name must have a jingle) ‘ Koh-i-Nûr,’ the Mountain of Light, and ‘ Koh-i-Tûr,’ the Mountain of Sinai. Having completed this throne, relinquishing the name of Aulumgeer, or ‘ Grasper of the Globe,’ he assumed that of Aurung-zeb, or ‘ Ornament of the Throne.’ He died in 1707, aged 87, and his throne remained in possession of his successors till 1728,* when Nadir Shah invaded Hindoostan, took and plundered Delhi, and massacred 125,000 men, women, and children. Together with sixty millions of other plunder, he carried off, and broke up the Peacock throne, but being assassinated on his return towards Persia in 1729, his treasures fell to general Ahmed, Chief of the Abdalli Afghans, of Cabul, called also the Durani, from each man wearing a dûr, or pearl, in

* These dates, like some of the facts here mentioned, are wild. Nadir Shah sacked Delhi, not in 1728, but in 1739, and the date of his death was 1747, not 1729. Nor was he assassinated on his return towards Persia, but fully eight years *after* his return to Persia.

the right ear.* He seized on the throne of Cabul, and in the confusion of this exploit the 'Koh-i-Tûr' was lost for ever."

The truth of this notable summary of a very complex page of history is discounted by the fact that the dates and the supposed occurrence do not agree. First in reference to Shah Jehan and his family in the year 1658; the desolating wars in the Deccan, which raged from the Nerbudda to the Kistna, were at that period in their fiercest phase. Nominally the diamond merchant Jemla was in command of the invading forces of the Emperor, although Shah Jehan's third son Aurung-zeb was the virtual conductor of the expedition. Emir Jemla, the merchant, was a Persian who had not only become a resident at the Court of the sovereign of Golconda (Kootb), but was advanced by him to offices of high command, and had successfully conducted this monarch's wars for several years in the Carnatic, where he had gathered spoils of immense value. The sovereign and his favourite fell out, as freebooters have often done before in regard to the division of their spoil. Thereupon the diamond merchant Jemla threw himself on Aurung-zeb, then 44 years of age, and in the very prime of life. Jemla persuaded the prince to attack his old master Kootb,

* This is also a mistake. The Abdali or Avdali Afghans took their present name of Duranis, not from the mythical circumstance here mentioned, but from the title of Dûr-i-Dûran, or "Pearl of the Age" assumed by Ahmed Khan, chief of the Popalzai branch of that tribe, when he usurped the throne of Kandahar, on the death of Nadir, in 1747. The Duranis form a very large section of the Afghan nation, numbering altogether according to Thornton about 800,000, rather too large a population to be kept supplied with a stock of pearls to be worn in the ght ear,

and represented the value of the loot the prince would acquire, and the importance of such untold treasure in prosecuting his ambitious projects. Kootb, however, offered Aurung-zeb prodigious wealth in diamonds and specie to leave his kingdom unmolested, and threatened Jemla with the death of his son (whom Kootb had seized and cast into prison), unless the terms were accepted. Aurung-zeb declined the proposal, and entrusted to Mohammed, his eldest son, the conduct of the war. The young warrior, with Jemla, set fire to the city of Golconda and murdered its inhabitants. As the King retreated to the old city he was closely followed by young Mohammed. Kootb was at the mercy of the victorious prince, who would have slain him but for the intercession of his daughter, whom Mohammed wedded even in the midst of the slaughter and desolation of the royal house. Within a few months the dependent king of Beejapoor died, and his throne being filled without reference to the Emperor, Shah Jehan, the Deccan was again subject to the horrors of war.

From this period to 1666 (nine years) the internecine strife for supremacy under the nominal sovereignty of their father, Shah Jehan's four sons, Dara, Shooja, Aurung-zeb, and Murad were in perpetual strife. The star of Aurung-zeb soon showed itself in the ascendant. Shah Jehan and his youngest son Murad were now virtually prisoners of Aurung-zeb. Dara, his elder brother, had been conquered, and was in flight, and Shooja was in arms ready to attack Aurung-zeb, who had seized the power of the throne, though vehemently asserting his utter

indifference to its honours or observances, and Shooja marched to Allahabad. Shah Jehan, with Murad, was within the walls of Agra, where he died in 1666, and all of his family having been cut off either by the prowess or duplicity of Aurung-zeb, he became absolute master of the situation.

It might be that a *musnud*, ornamented with a peacock made of gems, was ordered to be made by Aurung-zeb, but it is far more like the act of his vain-glorious father, Shah Jehan. The story about the two eyes being the "Koh-i-Nûr," and the "Koh-i-Tûr" is discredited by Murray, who, discussing the MS. quoted by Whittaker says: "It will be perceived that the two diamonds which are referred to, are by no means 'the largest known,' and the 'Koh-i-Tûr,' plundered by Nadir Shah, safely reposes among the crown jewels of Russia, weighs 193 carats, and is valued at £369,800." This description corresponds exactly with the "Orloff," which Murray thus identifies with a stone called the "Koh-i-Tûr," carried off from the Delhi treasury, where it formed a companion to the "Koh-i-Nûr." On this it will be sufficient to observe that the "Koh-i-Nûr" was unknown to the Mogul emperors by this name, which was conferred on it by Nadir Shah himself when first he set eyes on it. Hence Whittaker's statement regarding a corresponding "Koh-i-Tûr," so entitled because, "every Asiatic double name must have a jingle," loses its point, and the title of "Koh-i-Tûr," now applied to the "Orloff," does not enable us to identify this gem with one of that name wrongly assumed to have been owned by Aurung-zeb. We must therefore,

until the story of the French grenadier is shown to be a pure fabrication, maintain that the "Orloff" glittered in the eye, not of Aurung-zeb's peacock, but of the idol Sri-Ranga, and that it reached Europe, not from Delhi *via* Persia, but from Mysore, *via* Madras.

Mawe, who had also confused the stories of the "Orloff" and "Moon of Mountains," in the first edition of the *Treaty on Diamonds*, subsequently discovered his mistake, and at p. 42 of the second edition of that work, (London, 1823), inserted the subjoined paragraph:—"In a former edition I stated that this diamond belonged to Nadir Shah, but this may be doubted, as the Asiatics rarely part with diamonds of a large size; nor do I believe that a single instance of the kind is known to have occurred."

The account given by Pallas of the "Orloff" will be noticed when we come to treat of the "Moon of Mountains."

XI.

THE KOH-I-NÛR.*

The Great Diamond of History and Romance"—Strange but True—Fact and Fable—An Extravagant Tradition—"One Long Romance of Five Centuries"—Tricks of Eastern Friendship—Exchanging Turbans—The Piti-ful Story of Shah Rokh—A Factor of War and Murder, the Stone Carries a Curse—Built up in a Prison Wall—A Pathetic Incident—Eastern Reverence for Gems—The Supposed Talisman of Victory brings Defeat—Annexation of the Punjaub to the British Empire—Confiscation of the Crown Jewels of Lahore to the East India Company—The Greatest Gem of all Presented to the Queen—Its Character and Appearance—It is Re-cut on the Advice of the Prince Consort—The Koh-i-Nûr at last a Token of Liberty and Peace.



THIS is pre-eminently the "Great Diamond of history and romance." Its stirring adventures, when divorced from all connection with Tavernier's "Great Mogul," become intelligible enough. The first distinct and authentic reference to the "Koh-i-Nûr" occurs in the subjoined passage from the *Memoirs of Sultan Baber*, the author of which was a direct descendant of Tamerlane, and founder of the so-called Mogul Empire

* It will interest the reader to know that Her Majesty the Queen graciously read this chapter in manuscript, without requesting any correction or alteration in the leading points of our history. No one, we believe, has studied more carefully the records of India than the Queen, and on this account we felt that Her Majesty would be pleased to recognise our effort to tell the complete story of the Koh-i-Nûr, so far as to permit us to submit the MS. for her approval. This does not, of course, pledge Her Majesty to an endorsement of the facts, but it is, to some extent, an added guarantee of the correctness of our researches, and it gives a lustre to our work, for which we are loyally grateful.

in Hindostan. Under the date of May 4, 1526, the Sultan writes :—

“Bikermâjit, a Hindoo, who was Rajah of Gwalior, had governed that country for upwards of a hundred years. In the battle* in which Ibrahim was defeated, Bikermâjit was sent to hell.† Biker-mâjit’s family, and the heads of his clan were at this moment in Agra. When Hûmaiûn‡ arrived, Biker-mâjit’s people attempted to escape, but were taken by the parties which Hûmaiûn had placed upon the watch, and put in custody. Hûmaiûn did not permit them to be plundered. Of their own free will they presented to Hûmaiûn a ‘peshkesh’ (tribute or present), consisting of a quantity of jewels and precious stones. Among these was one famous diamond, which had been acquired by Sultan Ala-ed-din. It is so valuable that a judge of diamonds valued it at half of the daily expense of the whole world. It is about eight mishkels. On my arrival, Hûmaiûn presented it to me as a peshkesh, and I gave it back to him as a present.”

That the diamond here referred to is the “Koh-i-Nûr,” there can be no reasonable doubt ; nor indeed has the fact ever been seriously called into question. It will be noticed that, although he

* Baber here refers to the great Battle of Pariput fought on April 21, 1526, in which the emperor Ibrahim, of the Afghan Lodi dynasty was overthrown, and which led to the establishment of the Tabar or “Mogul” dynasty on the throne of Delhi.

† On this, Leyden and Eskine, the English translators of the Memoirs, remark : “The charitable mode in which a good Mussulman signifies the death of an infidel.”

‡ Hûmaiûn was the favourite son and successor of Baber, as emperor of Hindostan.

speaks of it as already "famous," Baber gives it no particular name, and it did not take its present designation till it passed into the hands of Nadir Shah. The illustrious historian mentions, however, that it "had been acquired by Sultan Ala-ed-din," which enables us to trace its existence some two hundred years further back. The Ala-ed-din here spoken of belonged to the Khilji dynasty, which succeeded that of the Ghûri, and which ruled over a large portion of Hindostan for 33 years, from A.D. 1288 to 1321, when they were replaced by the Toghlaqs. Ala-ed-din Khilji had obtained possession of the "famous diamond" in the year 1304, when he defeated the Rajah of Malwa, in whose family it had been as an heirloom from time out of mind. One tradition carries it back to the somewhat legendary Vikramâditya, an ancestor of the Rajah of Malwa here spoken of, and of Baber's Bikermâjit, Rajah of Gwalior. This Vikramâditya flourished in 57 B.C., and is said to have driven the Saca (by which are no doubt meant the Scythians) out of India. But no value can attach to the tradition, which is evidently a sort of after-thought, suggested by the similarity, or rather identity, of the two names Bikermâjit and Vikrâmaditya. At the same time the association is significant, as it serves to show that the gem was at all times regarded as the property of the Rajahs of Malwa, who are sometimes spoken of as Rajahs of Ujein and Gwalior ; for all these places were formerly included in the territory of Malwa, which has since been subdivided among the States of Bhopal, Indore, and Gwalior—the dominions of Scindia. We now understand how

it happened that the diamond, after being acquired by the Sultan Ala-ed-din in 1304, is found in the possession of Bikermâjit, Rajah of Gwalior in 1526. It had evidently been restored to Bikermâjit's family by the Khilji ruler after peace had been established between the two states.

A still more obscure and extravagant tradition identifies this stone with one discovered first some 5,000 years ago, in the bed of the Lower Godavery River, near Masulipatam, and afterwards worn as a sacred talisman by Carna, Rajah of Anga, who figures in the legendary wars of the Mahâbhârata. That such a stone should have been found in such a place is likely enough, as it may well have been washed down to the delta of the Godavery, which flows through one of the oldest and richest diamantiferous regions in the world. But its identification with the stone under consideration rests on no solid foundation, nor will it readily be believed that a gem, which remained unnamed till the eighteenth century, could be unerringly traced back to pre-historic times.

Its subsequent history from the time when it fell into the hands of Baber to the present day is inseparably associated with many of the most stirring and romantic events of modern days. But, to quote Maskelyne, though "one long romance from then till now, it is well authenticated at every step, as history seems never to have lost sight of this stone of fate from the days when Ala-ed-din took it from the Rajah of Malwa, five centuries and a half ago, to the day when it became a crown jewel of England."

Bernier tells us that on the death of Shah Jehan,

Aurang-zeb "set out immediately for Agra, where Begum Sahel received him with distinguished honour. On arriving at the women's apartments the princess presented him with a large golden basin full of precious stones, her own jewels and those which belonged to Shah Jehan." The princess here referred to was Jihanira, the too well-beloved daughter of Shah Jehan, who remained with him to the last, and who had used her influence to prevent him from destroying his jewels rather than surrender them to Aurung-zeb, as mentioned in our account of the "Great Mogul." It is uncertain whether Baber's diamond was one of those contained in the golden basin, or whether it had already been given to Aurung-zeb during his father's lifetime. The former supposition seems to be the most probable ; for amongst Aurung-zeb's treasures exhibited to Tavernier, November 3, 1665, there was only one diamond of great size—the "Mogul"—and Shah Jehan, already afflicted by a fatal disease, died in the following February. But the point is of little consequence, as in any case the stone remained in the possession of the Mogul dynasty until Nadir Shah's invasion of India, during the reign of Mohammed Shah, in 1739.

In our account of the "Orloff," reference has already been made to Whittaker's statement that Aurung-zeb made use of the "Koh-i-Nûr" as one of the eyes of the peacock, adorning his "Peacock Throne," and that Nadir carried off and broke up this throne, thus gaining possession of the famous gem. But according to another and apparently a more trustworthy account, when he seized on the Delhi treasury this stone, which

he was bent on securing, was found to be missing, and for a long time all his efforts to obtain it were baffled. At last a woman from Mohammed's harem betrayed the secret, informing Nadir that the emperor wore it concealed in his turban, which he never on any occasion laid aside.

Nadir had now recourse to a very clever trick, in order to secure the coveted prize. Having already seized on the bulk of the Delhi treasures, and concluded a treaty with the ill-fated Mogul emperor, he had no further pretext for quarrelling, and could not therefore resort to violence in order to effect his purpose. But he skilfully availed himself of a time-honoured Oriental custom, seldom omitted by princes of equal rank, on State occasions. At the grand ceremony a few days afterwards held in Delhi, for the purpose of re-instating Mohammed on the throne of his Tartar ancestors, Nadir suddenly took the opportunity of asking him to exchange turbans, in token of reconciliation, and in order to cement the eternal friendship that they had just sworn for each other. Taken completely aback by this sudden move, and lacking the leisure even for reflection, Mohammed found himself checkmated by his wily rival, and was fain, with as much grace as possible, to accept the insidious request. Indeed the Persian conqueror left him no option, for he quickly removed his own national sheepskin head-dress, glittering with costly gems, and replaced it with the emperor's turban. Maintaining the proverbial self-command of Oriental potentates Mohammed betrayed his surprise and chagrin by no outward sign, and so indifferent did he

seem to the exchange, that for a moment Nadir began to fear he had been misled. Anxious to be relieved of his doubts, he hastily dismissed the durbar with renewed assurances of friendship and devotion. Withdrawing to his tent he unfolded the turban, to discover, with selfish rapture, the long coveted stone. He hailed the sparkling gem with the exclamation, "Koh-i-Nûr!" signifying in English, "Mountain of Light."

At Nadir's death most of his treasures were dispersed, but the "Koh-i-Nûr," henceforth known by this title, passed together with many other jewels into the hands of his feeble son, and temporary successor, Shah Rokh. On him it brought nothing but misfortune; yet he clung to it with amazing tenacity, refusing to part with it under pressure of the most atrocious tortures, including even loss of sight. After his overthrow, he had been permitted to reside at Meshd, as governor of that city and district. Hither he brought the "Koh-i-Nûr," together with many other gems of great value, which formed part of the plunder carried off by his father from India. Aga Mohammed, who had an insatiable appetite for such things, determined to get possession of them; and in order the more easily to effect his purpose, he advanced with a large force towards Meshd, under the pretext of visiting the sacred shrine of the Imâm Riza, which is annually resorted to by many thousands of Shiah pilgrims. He thus succeeded in quietly occupying the city. After performing his devotions at the tomb of the saint, suddenly throwing off all disguise, he ordered the blind prince

to deliver up his concealed treasures. As the infatuated Shah Rokh still protested that he had already parted with them, he was ordered to be put to fresh torture, which had the effect of bringing to light several costly gems. But as neither the "Koh-i-Nūr" nor the immense ruby known to have been in the crown of Aurung-zeb were amongst them, Aga Mohammed devised a truly diabolical expedient to get hold of them. He ordered his victim's head to be closely shaved and encircled with a diadem of paste, and boiling oil to be poured into the receptacle thus formed. But even the frightful agony of this torture could only induce the victim to surrender the ruby. He still retained his hold of the great diamond. The miserable monarch never recovered from these injuries. Before his death, Ahmed Shah, founder of the Durani Afghan Empire, came to his assistance in 1751, concluded an alliance with him, and received in return the fatal gem, whose brilliancy could no longer rejoice the lack-lustre eyes of Shah Rokh.*

Possession of the unlucky gem proved no less disastrous to the Durani dynasty than it had to the Mogul emperors, and to Nadir's family. At his death Ahmed Shah bequeathed it to his son and heir Taimūr Shah, who removed the seat of government from Kandahar to Kabul, and who died in 1793.

* Early in 1751, Ahmed was recalled to Meshd by the revolt of Mir Allum Khan (Aga Mohammed), Chief of Kauin, who had seized on the treasure at Meshd and blinded and dethroned Shah Rokh Mūrza. Ahmed restored Shah Rokh and soon after took Kauin and put Mir Allum to death. Elphinstone's *Afghanistan*, p. 579. But according to other accounts Shah Rokh had already been blinded before the events here related.

From Taimûr it descended, with the crown, to his eldest son, Shah Zamân, who was deposed and deprived of his sight by his next brother, Shah Shuja ul-Mûlk.* The usurper thus became possessed of the "Koh-i-Nûr," which he retained almost to his death ; but which, nevertheless, involved him in an uninterrupted series of calamities and sufferings. After having remained for many years concealed in the wall of a stronghold, where Shah Zamân had been confined, the diamond was brought to light by the merest accident. Shah Zamân had, as he supposed, securely embedded it in the plaster of his prison wall. But in course of time a portion of the plaster crumbled away, leaving one of the sharp angles of the crystal exposed, or slightly protruding on the surface. Against this one of the officials happening to scratch his hand, his attention was attracted to the spot, his eye fell on the sparkling facet, and the "Koh-i-Nûr" was once more rescued from its hiding place. At all State ceremonials Shah Shuja now wore it on his breast, where it glittered when Elphinstone was sent by the Indian Government as Envoy to Peshawur during that Prince's troubled reign.

In his turn dethroned, deprived of his sight, and driven into exile by Shah Mahmûd, third son of Taimûr, Shah Shuja had contrived, amidst all his disasters, to retain possession of the great diamond, with which he now withdrew to the court of the

* "The messengers met Ramân on his way to Kabul, and performed their orders by piercing his eyes with a lancet."—Elphinstone, *op. cit.* p. 579.

famous Runjît-Singh, the "Lion of the Punjaub," accompanied by his brother, Shah Zamân, whom, as stated, he had himself already rendered sightless, according to the brutal fashion of the Durani court.

Runjît at first received the two ill-starred brothers with open arms, and even declared war on their behalf against Shah Mahmûd, from whom he took the territory of Kashmîr, which at that time formed part of the Afghan dominions. He, however, not only forgot to restore their possessions to the unfortunate brothers, but began to oppress them in every way, and to extort from them all the treasures they had brought away from Kabul. Amongst these the "Koh-i-Nûr" was coveted more than all the rest, and Runjît spared no efforts to get hold of it. How he at last effected his purpose is thus related by Kluge :—

"Driven from Peshawur to Kashmîr, and hence to Lahore, Shah Shuja became apparently the guest, but in reality the prisoner of Runjît Singh, who, though no connoisseur of precious stones, none the less attached great importance to their possession. Of the 'Koh-i-Nûr' he had heard only by report, and employed every means to secure it. Wuffo-Begum, consort of the unhappy king, had also sought and obtained protection from Runjît, and was consequently now residing in Shadera. Runjît ordered her to deliver up the stone, which, however, she protested was not in her possession. Thereupon he caused all her effects to be seized and brought to Lahore, thus acquiring jewels of greater value than any he had ever possessed before. Supposing that the 'Koh-i-Nûr' was amongst them, the bulk of the

property, including shawls, carpets, and gems, was retained, and a few trifles returned to the Begum. But soon ascertaining that the 'Koh-i-Nûr' was not to be found amongst the jewels, he had the Begum closely watched ; two of her most intimate attendants were thrown into prison, and the other members of the Zenana deprived even of bread and water. No one, without being first searched, was allowed to approach or leave the princess, and it was at the same time intimated, that nothing but the surrender of the diamond would satisfy Runjit. Thereupon the Begum sent him some very costly stones, and amongst them a ruby of considerable value. Having, as stated, no personal knowledge of gems, the tyrant of the Punjaub now fancied that this ruby, which surpassed everything he had yet seen, must be the real stone. But in order to make assurance doubly sure, he sent for a person acquainted with the 'Koh-i-Nûr,' placed all the stones before him, and asked, which is the 'Koh-i-Nûr?' He received answer that it was not amongst those gems, which compared to it, were of little value. This made him all the more eager to procure it, and he again began to treat the Begum and her family with great harshness. After keeping them without food for two days, finding that she still held out, he gave up the hope of bringing her to terms by such means, and had recourse to more insinuating ways. She now promised to give up the stone, provided Runjit released Shah Shuja from captivity in Kashmir, and conferred a life pension on him, besides sundry favours on herself and friends. Shah Shuja was liberated at once, but some of the

conditions not having been fulfilled, the Begum declared that the stone was not in her keeping, but that it had been pledged to a merchant in Kandahar. Runjît thereupon returned to the former coercive measures, and the princess was once more deprived of food, but all to no purpose. At last Shah Shuja himself volunteered to surrender the stone, and a time was fixed, on which he promised to produce it.

“On June 1, 1813, the appointed day, Runjît, accompanied by several confidential friends, and some experts acquainted with the stone, proceeded to Shadera, where Shah Shuja was then residing. At the ensuing interview, after both were seated, a profound silence prevailed, which neither side seemed disposed to break. An hour was thus spent, and Runjît, notwithstanding his impatience, still abstained from interrupting the solemn stillness. He, however, hinted to a confidant that he might quietly remind Shah Shuja of the object of their interview. Thereupon the latter nodded to a slave, who withdrew, and presently returning with a packet, which he placed on the carpet, at an equal distance from the two princes. Deep silence again ensues; Runjît's impatience grows to a fever heat; no longer able to control his feelings, he directs one of the attendants to take up the packet; it is opened, and a glittering gem of unusual size is revealed, and recognised by the experts as the true ‘Koh-i-Nûr.’ At sight of the long-coveted prize, Runjît forgets the past, and breaks the silence with the question ‘At what price do you value it?’ To which Shah Shuja replies ‘At good luck, for it has ever been the associate of him who

has vanquished his foes.' And he might have added with equal truth, 'At bad luck, for sorrow and sufferings have ever followed in its wake !' But by his answer he betrayed the true secret of the mysterious reverence akin to worship, with which choice gems of this sort have ever been regarded in the East, and till recently in the West." Much in the same way Marbœuf, bishop of Rennes, in the 11th century, described in barbarous Latin verse, the virtues of the Agate, thus translated by King :—

" The Agate on the wearer strength bestows,
With ruddy health his fresh complexion glows ;
Both eloquence and grace by it are given,
He gains the favour both of earth and heaven."

According to the account of a trustworthy eyewitness, Shah Shuja's bearing throughout this interview was such as to command the deepest respect, and produced a marked effect on the audience. He received from Runjît a sum of 125,000 rupees, and soon after this occurrence he withdrew with his brother, Shah Zâman, to Ludianah, in British territory, where they resided for some time on an annual pension of 60,000 rupees each, and 6,000 to each of their eldest sons. Here Whittaker tells us that he saw them in 1821, and he adds that Runjît at that time had the diamond at Lahore, capital of the Sikh States. "A Bengali shroff, or banker, named Silchûrd, resident at Ludianah, having occasion to visit Lahore on the Rajah's business, asked his highness for permission to see the jewel, which being granted, Silchûrd fell on his face and worshipped the stone."

The further adventures of this splendid gem are soon told. Runjît caused it to be set in a bracelet

which he wore on all public occasions. On his death bed in 1839, an attempt was made to induce him to conciliate the favour of the gods by presenting the stone to the famous shrine of Jaganâth (Juggernaut). He is even said to have given his consent by an inclination of the head ;* but the crown jeweller refused to surrender the treasure without a duly signed written warrant, which was being prepared when Runjît breathed his last. It thus remained in the Lahore jewel-chamber till the young Rajah Dhulîp-Singh was recognised by the British Government (after the murder of Shu-Singh), when an English Agent was stationed with a strong body-guard in Lahore. Then followed the mutiny of the two Sikh Regiments, which brought about the final annexation of the Punjaub in 1849, when, as related by Hunt, "the civil authorities took possession of the Lahore Treasury, under the stipulations previously made that all the property of the State should be confiscated to the East India Company, in part payment of the debt due by the Lahore Government, and of the expenses of the war. It was at the same time stipulated that the 'Koh-i-Nûr' should be presented to the Queen of England. After the Company became possessed of the gem, it was taken in charge by Lord Dalhousie,

* King (p. 73) puts another complexion on this story. According to him Runjît was so convinced that nothing but ruin would ever attend the possession of the fatal stone that, "having satisfied his covetousness in the enjoyment of its possession during his lifetime, he vainly sought to break through the ordinance of fate, and to avert the concomitant destruction from his family by bequeathing the stone to the shrine of Juggernaut for the good of his soul and the preservation of his dynasty. But his successors could not bring themselves to give up the baleful treasure—each one, doubtless, acting on the maxim 'après moi le déluge.'"

and sent by him to England in custody of two officers." Thus this great historical diamond passed with victory from East to West, and was presented to the future Kaiser-i-Hind on June 3, 1850. It was shown at the first great Exhibition held the following year in Hyde Park, on which occasion it attracted a great deal of attention, although it had been so unskilfully treated by the Indian cutter that it looked little better than an ordinary crystal.

When brought to Europe it was found to weigh exactly $186\frac{1}{16}$ carats. We have seen that Baber gives the weight of Bikermâjit's diamond at "about eight mishkels," or somewhat over 187 carats, while Tavernier repeatedly declares that the "Great Mogul" was reduced by Borgio to 279 carats. Again the two stones were of totally different form, and the Mogul was without a history, having been quite recently discovered in the Kollur mine, whereas authentic records carried the "Koh-i-Nûr" back to the year 1304, beyond which date it had a tradition giving it an antiquity of some fifty centuries. Several recent writers still, however, persist in regarding these two distinct stones as one and the same gem. Even Professor Nicol, in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, revives this theory, and goes the length of suggesting that the "Great Mogul," the "Koh-i-Nûr" and the stone found in Cûcha in 1832, were all pieces of one original crystal. Speaking of the "Koh-i-Nûr," he remarks that "its lower side is flat and undoubtedly corresponds to a cleavage plane. Hence it has been conjectured that it and the Russian 'Orloff' diamond are portions of the original stone belonging to the

‘Great Mogul,’ whilst a stone of 132 carats obtained by Abbas Mirza at the storming of Cûcha in Khorasan in 1832, may be a third fragment. This portion was long used by a peasant as a flint for striking fire. The three united would have nearly the form and size given by Tavernier, and the ‘Koh-i-Nûr’ would then surpass all known diamonds in its magnitude, as in its eventful history.” For a refutation of this theory, the reader is referred to our account of the Abbas Mirza Diamond.

In consequence of the clumsy way in which the Hindoo cutter had handled the “Koh-i-Nûr,” at a time when the art was still, doubtless, in its infancy, Prince Albert consulted Sir David Brewster, as to how it might be re-cut to the best possible advantage. He found in it, as is the case with many other large diamonds, several little caves, which he declared (according to his theory), to be the result of the expansive force of condensed gases. This, together with the flaws already noticed, he considered would make the cutting of it, without serious diminution, a very difficult thing. Messrs. Coster, however, of Amsterdam, thought that in the hands of skilful workmen, the difficulties might be overcome. Several patterns of cuts were laid before Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, and after due consultation, selection was made of the form which it now has, and which may be described as that of a regularly-cut brilliant.

Mr. Voorsanger, of Mr. Coster’s establishment, was the workman entrusted with the responsible task of re-cutting the famous gem, and his labours were conducted in the *atelier* of the Crown Jewels, in

London.* To assist his object a small four-horse machine was erected, and the cutting commenced by the Prince Consort placing the diamond on the mill on the 6th of July, 1852. The operation was completed at the end of thirty-eight days of twelve hours each. The "Star of the South," a much larger stone, was afterwards cut by the same hand in three months. But the "Pitt," or "Regent," treated by the slower hand-process of the eighteenth century, had occupied no less than two years.

One of the flaws in the "Koh-i-Nûr" gave great trouble. In order to remove it the number of revolutions of the cutting-wheel had to be increased to 3,000 per minute, and even then the object was only attained very slowly. During the process of reduction, the diamond lost exactly eighty carats in weight, having been reduced from $186\frac{1}{16}$ to its present weight of $106\frac{1}{16}$ carats.

After all, the result was far from giving universal satisfaction, although obtained at a cost of no less

* It is questionable whether Her Majesty and the Government would not have been better advised, had they sent the stone direct to Amsterdam, for re-cutting by experts on the spot, instead of placing the work in the hands of a firm, more famous for their artifice in silver, than their cutting of diamonds. The result, we venture to think, would have been a stone of greater brilliance than the present one. The responsibility of cutting a diamond of such value and historic interest as the "Koh-i-Nûr," is well illustrated by an anecdote connected with the latest manipulation of the gem in question. While Mr. Sebastian Garrard was superintending the re-cutting, many professors and men of note went to the factory, to see the progress of the work,—the majority of them being of opinion that the stone would split into pieces during the operation. It is stated that, as they were passing from the factory to the shop, they encountered the late Mr. Robert Garrard, and put to him the following question:—"What would you do supposing the Koh-i-Nûr does fly to pieces?" "Take my name-plate off the door and bolt," was the ready answer.

than £3,000. The Prince Consort, who took the greatest interest in the operation, and whose sound advice had probably prevented a total failure, openly expressed his dissatisfaction with the work.

On the treatment which the "Koh-i-Nûr" received in the cutter's hands, King is very severe, remarking that owing to the flattened and oval figure of the stone, the brilliant pattern selected by the Queen's advisers "entailed the greatest possible amount of waste." He adds that Mr. Coster would have preferred the drop form, but that "in a historical relic like this, the sole course that would have recommended itself to a person of taste, was the judicious one pursued some years before by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, in their re-cutting of the 'Nassak,' both in its native and artificial figure. In this, by following the trails of the Hindoo cutter, amending his defects, and accommodating the pattern to the exigencies of the subject matter, they transformed the rudely-faceted, lustreless mass, into a diamond of perfect brilliancy, at the sacrifice of no more than ten per cent. of its original weight."

It may also be remarked that, although said to be cut as a brilliant, this great Oriental talisman is really only such in name, being much too thin to have satisfied the Jeffries, Ralph Potters, and the other great dealers of the last and beginning of the present century. In fact the cutting of the "Koh-i-Nûr" on this occasion, revealed the painful fact that the art was then extinct in England, while even the Amsterdam and Paris operators had lost much of their former cunning. They followed a system of mere

routine, betraying little inventive power, and showing themselves incapable of grappling with the problem of how best to reduce a stone, with the least sacrifice of its weight, and the greatest display of its natural lustre.*

The "Koh-i-Nûr" is preserved in Windsor Castle. A model of the gem is kept in the jewel room of the Tower of London, to satisfy the laudable curiosity of Her Majesty's faithful lieges. Although not of the very finest water, and of a greyish tinge, the stone was valued before being re-cut at about £140,000. But Barbot considers it far from being worth such a sum. He allows, however, that it is still an extraordinary stone, "but more on account of its great surface than for its play, which is almost neutralised by its great spread." It must, however, be remembered that this is the criticism of a Frenchman naturally alarmed for the hitherto unrivalled reputation of the "Regent." Since Barbot's time it will be seen in our account of the "English Dresden," that the lustre even of the "Regent," has been somewhat dimmed by the absolutely faultless character of the Bagagem crystal.

Although yielding to these and perhaps to one or two others in brilliancy, as it does to several in size, the "Koh-i-Nûr" must ever remain without a rival for the intense interest attaching to the sanguinary and romantic incidents associated with its marvellous career. A strange fatality presided over its early

* The art however, has within the last few years not only been revived, but now far surpasses anything ever hitherto accomplished.

vicissitudes, but its alleged "uncannic" powers have now ceased to be a subject of apprehension. Its latest history eloquently demonstrates the fact that extended empire is a blessing, just in proportion as it finds hearts and hands willing to fulfil the high duties which increased privileges involve.

XII.

DARYA-I-NÛR.

A City of Gems and Jewels—Nadir Shah's Descent on Delhi—Indiscriminate Slaughter and Plunder—The Shah of Persia's Largest Diamond, "Sea of Light"—Its Shape and Character—Is the "Darya-i-Nûr" the Missing "Mogul?"—"Opinions Differ"—A Reliable Judgment.



MOHAMMED Shah, who inherited the spoils extorted by his progenitors from the unhappy kings of Golconda and Beejapoor, sat upon the throne of Delhi, a mark for any adventurous warrior who had the courage to descend the Suleiman range, and, crossing the Indus, march straight to the most luxurious capital of the Eastern empire. Jewels of unequalled magnitude and lustre were openly exposed in durbars of the Palace, on the holy shrines, and in the princely demesnes of its Maharajah, its nobles and its merchants. Nothing in the history of modern times can equal the inroad of the humbly-born sheep-skin clothier, Nadir Shah, who had mounted the throne of Persia. Without warning, this warrior-prince came boldly on the devoted city, and having plundered its palaces, laid waste its populous streets, which he choked up with the dead of his opponents. He removed his booty with reckless prodigality, amidst the fire and smoke of the devastated public buildings. Nothing of value escaped the rapine of this merciless murderer. The

peacock throne with its priceless jewels, the treasures of the general populace, even the ordinary stores of the labourer went in the indiscriminate loot. The "Koh-i-Nûr" (as previously shown), and the "Darya-i-Nûr," with waggon-loads of less renowned, but hardly less valuable things, were removed *en masse* to Khorassan, where the murderer arrayed himself in the spoils of his royal victim, and unconsciously by his very triumph, paved the way to his own murder, and the destruction of his dynasty and race.

"The Darya-i-Nûr," which in imagination might seem to flash blood red rays, came out of this carnage, pure and lovely as when it was first cut. It is probably the finest gem, as it certainly is the largest diamond belonging to the Shah of Persia. It is a magnificent stone of the purest water, and of almost matchless lustre, fully deserving the proud title of "Sea or River of Light," by which it has always been known in Persia.* It appears to be rose-cut, and weighs 186 carats, which, strange to say, was the exact weight of the "Koh-i-Nûr," before that famous gem was re-cut in London. Were there any truth in the story that the emperor Aurung-zeb had the "Koh-i-Nûr," and another stone of like size, set in the eyes of the peacock overshadowing his throne, we might well suppose that this was the corresponding

* In Persian دریا — *Darya-i-Nûr* — Sea or River of Light. Although the adjective *Daryai* strictly means marine, the noun *Darya* is applied indifferently to seas and rivers, as in Amu-Darya, the Persian name of the river Oxus. *Nûr* is "Light;" as in the corresponding expression *Koh-i-Nûr* — Mound of Light.

gem.* In any case, it seems tolerably certain that the "Darya-i-Nûr" was one of the diamonds carried off by Nadir Shah, when he plundered the Delhi treasury in 1739. But if it was never associated with the "Koh-i-Nûr," it is now at least fittingly coupled with the "Taj-e-Mah," a gem of scarcely inferior splendour, for both of these superb diamonds figure as the ornaments in a pair of magnificent bracelets, which Sir John Malcolm tells us he saw in Persia, and which were valued at no less than one million sterling.

Some writers have suggested that the "Darya-i-Nûr" may possibly be the missing "Great Mogul," of which nothing has been heard since the time it was seen by Tavernier in Aurung-zeb's treasury in 1665. Thus Barbot, amongst others, writes that, "Thamask Kouli-Khan, so famous under the name of Nadir Shah, seems to have got possession of the 'Great Mogul.' If so it may now be in Persia, where it is known by the name of 'Darya-i-Nûr,' or 'Ocean of Light.'"

But while it is quite possible, and even probable that Nadir may have seized the "Great Mogul," it does not at all follow that this diamond is now represented by the "Darya-i-Nûr." On the contrary, the two stones differ so widely in size and form that they cannot possibly be the same jewel under two different names. The "Great Mogul," as we have seen, was reduced in

* It will be seen in our account of the "Jehan-Ghir-Shah" that this stone is also one of the rivals for the honour of having formed a companion of the "Koh-i-Nûr" in the peacock throne; but, for the reasons there stated none of these claims can be accepted as valid.

Borgio's hands to 279 $\frac{9}{16}$ carats, whereas Malcolm tells us that the "Darya-i-Nûr" weighs only 186 carats. In shape the former presented the appearance of an egg cut in half, whereas the latter appears to be rather of a flat oval form. It is also mounted in a bracelet, a setting for which the "Great Mogul" would be unsuited. Hence, whatever its origin, the "Darya-i-Nûr" cannot at all events be identified with the great Indian diamond.

A full account of the "Darya-i-Nûr's" adventurous career, after it passed from Nadir Shah to his son, Shah Rukh, will be found in the chapter devoted to the "Taj-e-Mah."

XIII.

THE AHMEDABAD.

A Name that excites Unpleasant Reflections—Incidents of British Warfare in India—The Assault and Capture of Ahmedabad—The Opportunities of Collectors.



AHMEDABAD is not a pleasant name to British ears. A French officer, the Chevalier St. Lubin, acting secretly with some Mahratta chief, following up in the Ghauts the schemes he had only two successfully adopted in Mysore, produced the disasters attending the war of Hyder Ali with the Madras Government. Governor-General Warren Hastings directed that a force should be sent to assist the Government of Bombay. The Peishwa of Poonah was an infant, and the chief authority was thrown into the hands of Rugonath Raw.

Without waiting for the support of the troops from Bengal, the Government of Bombay commenced hostilities. The troops of the former Presidency moved slowly, harrassed by the Mahrattas, and before a general action was attempted Colonel Kay and Captain Stewart fell in a skirmish.

Colonel Egerton was compelled to relinquish the command, and the British troops commenced an ill-considered retreat. On the 11th January, 1779, this retreat degenerated into a rout. So little power had

the British in Bombay reserved to themselves, that when their ally Rugonath Raw was demanded to be surrendered by the Poona minister, the panic-stricken Government of Bombay would have given him up, had he not made his escape to Scindia. The British, by the help of Scindia, made a convention with the Mahratta Government of Poona, by which the Island of Salsette was to be ceded, and the fort and government of Baroach were to be added to Scindia's kingdom, two hostages being left to secure the performance of that engagement from the British. This arrangement cost England 41,000 rupees as presents for the good offices of some powerful Hindoos.

The Bengal contingent was intercepted by native chiefs, and so little progress had Colonel Leslie made in five months that the Governor-General recalled him, and appointed Colonel Goddard to succeed to the command. After this the Bengal contingent was very soon marched into Bombay, and in 1780 Colonel Goddard put his army in motion, and Ahmedabad was taken by assault. From its position, at the eastern end of Gujerat, both Scindia and Holkar were threatened with check, and these two chiefs advanced to give battle to Goddard, when the British general at once accepted the challenge. Scindia used all the eastern arts to avert the engagement he had challenged, but Goddard brought the matter to an end by an attack upon the enemy's camp, which proved successful. In the meantime a small force under Captain Popham attacked Lahar, 50 miles from Calpie, and, to the astonishment of Sir Eyre Coote, carried it by storm. If possible, it was an object of

great importance to take Gwalior, deemed by the Indian military authorities impregnable. Popham sat down to consider how to deal with the "exceeding high rock—scarped nearly all round" and garrisoned by a thousand men. He saw his point, and actually determined personally to attempt the capture, and after midnight he was in the fort. This gave Bombay a respite and a lesson.

Such bandits as the Mahrattas, are constantly dividing the booty taken in the expeditions against feebler communities. In a hotly contested engagement like that of Ahmedabad, the soldiers of the native chiefs often find valuable loot on the persons of their officers, whom they rob when dead or severely wounded. These are the occasions which skilled collectors of valuables improve. We readily believe M. Tavernier when he says that he purchased this magnificent stone, the "‘Ahmedabad,’ for one of his friends, and that it originally weighed $157\frac{1}{4}$ carats, but after being cut on either side the jewel was reduced to $94\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and that its water was perfect. The flat side, where there were two flaws below, was about the thickness of a sheet of stout paper. When I had the stone I caused all this part to be removed together with a portion of the upper point where little flaws remained."*

It is strange that nothing further should be known regarding a stone, which, even when reduced by

* "Le costé plat où il y a deux glaces au bas estoit mince comme une feuille de gros papier. En faisant tailler la pierre je fis emporter tout ce morceau mince avec une partie du bout d'en-haut, où il est resté une petite pointe de glace."—It is figured in the first edition of his work Vol. II., p. 334.

cutting, was still over 94 carats in weight. Tavernier probably never brought it to Europe, but disposed of it in Persia, where there are still many hidden treasures, destined again to turn up whenever liberal institutions are introduced into that oppressed country.

XIV.

THE PORTER-RHODES.

The Kimberley Mine—A Surprise—"Test Diamonds"—Mr. Porter-Rhodes at Osborne—Presented to the Queen—Her Majesty's Opinion of the Famous Cape Stone—At Osborne Cottage—The Empress Eugenie an Authority on Gems—Handling the "Koh-i-Nûr" at Windsor.



THE recent exhibition of the "Porter-Rhodes" in Bond Street, London, has made this remarkable stone a familiar object to connoisseurs. During the winter of 1881, many ladies and gentlemen inspected it, and heard from the lips of the owner, some of the details of its discovery. Notes upon the question of its value have been published in the leading journals, wherein it has been stated that while a syndicate of English diamond merchants had offered him £60,000 for his treasure, he estimates its value at more than £200,000. The history of the stone (which is as yet uncut), and the opinions of Her Majesty the Queen, and Her Imperial Majesty the Empress Eugenie, are set forth in the following letter, written to Mr. Streeter by Mr. Porter-Rhodes.

"In giving an account of the Blue-White Diamond, weighing 150 carats, which is known as the 'Porter-Rhodes Diamond,' I am, since my visit to you, more assured of the great worth of the stone,

and from information derived from reliable sources, I have every confidence in saying, I firmly believe it has no rival. The diamond was found on the 12th of February, 1880, in one of my claims, (or diggings), situated in what is known as the Kimberley Mine, Diamond Fields, South Africa. Here, at mid-day, the workmen are allowed to leave the mine, and are away somewhat over an hour for dinner. I was in the habit of meeting my overseers at this time every day, for the purpose of ascertaining whether anything good had been found, or other news in connection with the mine, and I had always impressed upon them, in case of a good stone being unearthed, they were not to mention the fact before the diamond had been handed to me. The reason for this, no doubt, you will quite understand. At that time, and even now, the dealers in rough diamonds like to be in the position of knowing that the diamond or parcel of diamonds, purchased from the claimholder, had not been offered for sale to any of their neighbours in opposition establishments, and I believe I have at times, obtained higher prices, through being able to shew that no other dealer had seen the stones. Why this should make any difference I am unable to tell. On the 12th of February, 1880, I had been busily engaged at the Magistrate's Court, in connection with a case I had against a native, who had been misbehaving himself, and was not released until a few minutes after the time, 12 o'clock, when I should have been at the edge of the mine, to hear the news. However, I went in the direction where I was most likely to meet my chief overseer, and fortunately saw

him in the street, and at a glance saw something unusual had happened. In reply to my question 'Anything good to-day?' 'Yes, a white one this time,' he replied, and at the same moment proceeded to hand the stone to me, which I partially hesitated in taking. I saw it was so uncommonly white, that I thought some one had been playing a practical joke upon the man, but once in my hand, I realised its genuineness. I had had the diamond about four months before the fact was made publicly known. Besieged by gentlemen anxious for a sight of it, I made arrangements with a friend, who kindly consented to allow me to exhibit the diamond in his office. We had some difficulty in restraining the crowd, as each person expected to be allowed to handle it, which I considered reasonable enough. There was great excitement amongst those who understood the matter, each willingly paying a sovereign, and within an hour I had taken £100. This, with further amounts, arrived at something like £500, and was handed to the managing committee of our hospital on the diamond fields. I must mention that most of the dealers keep what you will better know as 'test stones,' for the purpose of trying the color of parcels of diamonds offered them for sale, as according to the light of the day, or the tint of the particular kind of paper the stones may be wrapped in, the buyers are apt to be deceived, and to guard against this, the 'test stones' are placed with the others, by which means, they better assure themselves of the quality of the stones offered. Many gentlemen produced their 'test diamonds,' and I am

happy to say, when placed next to mine, even to the smallest, there was not one so white, and I felt on this account, all the more gratified to hear each gentleman in his turn, add to the compliments they had already paid me upon the purity of what is now known as the 'Porter-Rhodes Diamond.'

"When leaving Kimberley, I was fortunate enough to receive a letter from Mr. Orpen, then our Surveyor-General, introducing me to Colonel Gawler, who has charge of the Crown Jewels. In him I found a thorough English gentleman, who, shewing me every possible kindness, ready to assist me, so far as his position allowed, in furthering the object of my visit to England. Through Colonel Gawler's influence, it was arranged that I should pay a visit to Osborne, where our Queen was then living, and there exhibit the stone to Her Majesty. I left London on the 18th of January, 1881, which you will no doubt remember as the day of the very heavy snow-storm. The line was so blocked by the drifting of the snow, that the train arrived at its destination too late for my appointment. I communicated with Sir John Cowell, who is Master of the Queen's Household, mentioning the unfortunate position I was in. He replied that Her Majesty understood the case, and would allow me to present myself the next day. I took good care not to be late on this occasion, and found myself at Osborne at the right time. The attendants shewed me into the apartments of the Master of the Household, and after spending some time with Sir John and Lady Cowell, it was announced that the Queen was prepared to receive me. On being presented to Her

Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, I broke the seal of the envelope covering the diamond, and handed it to the Queen, Her Majesty being the first to see it out of South Africa. At a glance I think, she saw its great beauty, and I was more assured when the question followed 'Is it really from the Cape?' I think you will agree with me that people in England know but very little of the Cape, and under-estimate its worth. I explained to Her Majesty how we are robbed by a low class of men known to the diggers as 'Illicit Diamond Dealers,' and how closely we are obliged to watch the natives in consequence, necessarily entailing very heavy cost. Her Majesty after examining the stone thoroughly, and evidently understanding the subject, congratulated me upon its great purity, as well as upon my good fortune in having secured it from the hands of the illicit diamond buyers. The Queen then withdrew, and Prince Leopold, accompanied by Princess Beatrice entered, and on their inspection of the stone, I was equally pleased with the interest displayed, and the kind expressions used. After exhibiting the stone to a number of ladies and gentlemen of the Court, I was taken by Captain Bigge to what is known as Osborne Cottage, then the temporary residence of the Empress Eugenie, where we were received very kindly, and had not waited many minutes when the Empress entered. This audience was most entertaining, as I found the Empress to be quite an authority on the subject, and in possession of the history of all diamonds of note. The Empress said everything good possible of the stone, and

remarked that it was 'simply perfection,' not knowing what to compare it with. Here, too, I was asked, 'are you sure the diamond is from South Africa, and have you not had it polished a little?' I was somewhat amused when the Empress remarked, 'I have always been under the impression that diamonds from the Cape were very yellow, and worth but little.' I believe I convinced Her Majesty of the fact that good stones *are* exported from the Cape, and I am sure, Mr. Streeter, in referring to you, I have no better authority to bear me out on the subject.

"Before leaving Osborne, I took the precaution to ask if I might be allowed to inspect the great "Koh-i-Nûr," and I am happy to say Her Majesty graciously granted me permission; but I was not then aware of the gem being kept at Windsor. A short time after, when the Queen returned to Windsor Castle, I had the honour, in company with my sister, of viewing this grand historical stone, and I am proud to be able to say, allowed to handle it, an honour I think which has fallen to the lot of very few. I shall never forget the pleasure experienced at my reception by the English Court. I have too, a handsome watch and chain, presented to me by Her Majesty, and this I trust, will be an everlasting remembrance of the fortunate time when I was admitted to the presence of our gracious Sovereign, Victoria."

XV.

THE TURKEY I. AND II.

Gems in the Turkish Regalia—Abdul Aziz and his Creditor
—An Incident of Turkish Trouble—A Reign of Terror.



HERE are two large diamonds in the Turkish Regalia of which little or nothing is known beyond the fact of their existence. We have named them as above. The first weighs 147, and the second 84 carats. The heaviest of the two is said to have been "picked up on the sands by a boy." One can hardly imagine a more vague description of discovery. We have made considerable efforts to obtain fuller information in regard to the antecedents and present character and appearance of these two gems, but so far without success. A gentleman holding an official position in the East undertook to assist us. He wrote to us as follows from Galata on July 19, 1881.

"In reply to yours of 11th inst., I beg to say that I shall endeavour to get the information you seek ; but as the Turkish fast, the Ramazan, is now coming on, it is quite useless to attempt anything till after Bairam, that is in five weeks. I shall then apply, through the Embassy, for a firman to inspect the

jewels, which may or may not be given. At that time I shall also endeavour to get such drawings and legends as you wish for. I may, however, say that of late years immense robberies have gone on ; and very likely the stones you speak of have disappeared. When Abdul Aziz was dethroned, and Murad came in, he paid his banker, a certain Christaki Effendi, the debt he owed him (£500,000) in diamonds ; giving him, so it is alleged, no less than £800,000 worth of stones. Christaki Effendi went to Paris, where he disposed of the gems ; but as Murad in the meanwhile was dethroned, he never took the trouble either to come back or to render an account. It is thus very likely that my search for the stones of which you speak may be fruitless. In the meantime you must be patient, and I shall promise not to forget your request."

Five months later our correspondent writes again, this time from Constantinople :—

"I have your memorandum of 2nd inst., and can well understand that you are surprised at my long silence. I regret, however, to say that I am not one whit nearer the information you desire than when you first wrote to me about it ; and that I doubt very much if I ever shall get anything reliable to communicate to you. I have taken no inconsiderable amount of trouble in the matter, and have approached several high and influential men on the subject ; but with absolutely no result. It is not at all a question of money ; but simply this, that the reign of terror in the palace is so absolute, that no one would ever dare to ask a question referring to crown jewels."

It is possible that at a future day we may unearth the true stories of these Turkish gems. At present we must leave the subject where it is. The unsettled state of affairs at the Porte is graphically illustrated in the closing sentence of our agent's second letter.

XVI.

THE TAJ-E-MAH.

The Diamond Works of Sumbhulpore—Mining Under Difficulties—Diamond Seekers at Work—A Famous Region—Robbed and Exiled—A Monarch on the Rack—The Royal Torturer Assassinated—A Gorgeous Bracelet—Royal Gems—Uncivilized Persia—A Strange Story—The Philosophic Content of a Blinded King.



HIS gem is acknowledged to be of Indian origin, and has the character of a Godavery stone. It is like its twin the Darya-i-Nûr, of first water, and is claimed by the diamond finders as a Mahanuddy which in Sanscrit is the synonym of "great river," and is appropriated to the stream which runs from west to east and falls into the Bay of Bengal.

The diamond works of Sumbhulpore are not rich in large first class diamonds, but they have been remarkable for their clear water. The reason of the ill success attending the working of these diamantiferous fields is that in the north the jungle, in addition to being pestiferous, is the haunt of the tiger and the leopard. Natives also affirm that it is the only spot in India where the lion has been found. It is rich in gold and produces gems of the first water. The petty chiefs have always striven to keep the knowledge of this unpeopled mining district to themselves fearing alike the Mahratta and Mohammedan interference. They have generally taken quiet possession of such produce as was washed down the torrent

into the larger affluents. In 1818 this province came into the British possession, but the British workmen stationed at Sumbhulpore fell victims to the insalubrity of the country. The part of the river Mahanuddy in which diamonds were found reaches from Chundepore where the Maund joins the main stream to Sohnpore where the Mahanuddy makes a sudden bend to the north producing an extensive mud bank on the northern shore, making altogether a course of 120 miles. Throughout this extent the diamond searchers ply their unwholesome trade from the time when the rains cease to their periodical return. These labourers are of two tribes called Jhara and Tora. The former are said to be Gonds, an aboriginal race, and the latter a mixed people. When the rain has ceased the Jhara and Tora searchers repair to the upper Mahanuddy, with their wives and children, and explore the beds, especially the alluvial deposits. The principal tool which they employ is a sharp pickaxe. All the detritus is well washed. The hard stony matter is looked at carefully by the women. It is put thinly on planks and exposed to the glare of the sun, which shows up the character of the calcareous "detrit." Every particle of red ochrey clay coloured by oxide of iron, is passed through the fingers and thumb, and examined minutely, as this is richest in diamonds. But concealment of the stones was and perhaps is very easy and common. In 1818, the year of the dispersement of the Pindaries and not less thieving masters, the Mahrattas, the native searchers found by some experiments that the white man's agent valued fairly

some fine stones brought for his inspection, and the agent very shortly after had a stone of 81 carats (a Brahmin) brought to him at Sumbhulpore, which he valued at £500. The names given to the various stones are classed into four divisions—1st. Brahmins; 2nd, Kshatrias; 3rd, Vaisyas; and 4th, Sudras.

The native searchers are allowed sixteen villages rent free, and all the gold they find they may appropriate for their own use. The Ranee, Rullum Coher, in the beginning of this century, received one diamond of 72 carats, and a second, or its nominal twin, of 77 carats, with many equally clear but smaller gems. In 1809 a gem of 168 carats was discovered, and found a place in her treasury. The repute of the possession of these gems got abroad, and Holkar's or Scindia's Mahratta troops swooped down upon her territory, robbed her of her gems, and drove her into exile. The stones were supposed to have been deposited in the stronghold of Asseeghur, and were taken by the British in the early spring of 1819, at the breaking up of the Mahratta confederacy. The "Taj-e-Mah" presented so much the character of the gems in question, although exceeding them in size and weight, that the birth place of the stone is attributed to the upper Mahanadi or Mahanuddy. It found its way into the hands of Mir Jumna, the diamond merchant, and the Shah of Persia obtained it either directly or indirectly from his hands as will be shown in the historic sketch which follows:—

The "Taj-e-Mah" is perhaps the very finest gem in the Persian collection. But notwithstanding its

Persian title,* its Indian origin is betrayed by its shape, for it is skilfully cut in the form of a rose diamond, the style almost universally adopted in Hindoostan. From that country it was brought away with a vast quantity of other treasures, variously estimated at from £30,000,000 to £60,000,000 by the Perso-Tartar conqueror, Nadir Shah, in 1739. After his death in 1747 it was rescued from the pillage of his effects which then took place, and thus came into the possession of his unfortunate successor, Shah Rokh. When this feeble ruler fell into the power of the usurper, Aga Mohammed, he clung with incredible tenacity to the glittering treasures which had been saved from the wreck of his father's property. For a long time he endured with the constancy of a martyr the cruel treatment and horrible tortures to which the usurper subjected him. Exposed alternately to the pains of hunger and thirst, heat and cold, racked, torn with red hot pincers, and at last deprived of his eyes by the usual Persian process of cold steel, his firmness gradually gave way, and he yielded up the costly gems one by one, with each successive application of the rack or pincers, of burning heat and biting cold.

By this means Aga Mohammed succeeded at length in getting possession of the bulk of the crown jewels, including both the "Taj-e-Mah" and the "Darya-i-Nûr." But the usurper proved no exception to the evil destiny usually attending the possession of these large diamonds. He was himself soon afterwards

* The Persian title is تاج ماه — Taj-e-Mah, literally the "Crown or Crest of the Moon."

assassinated by the emissaries of the rival faction at that time contending for the throne of the "king of kings." After his death the murderers handed over all his jewels to Sadek Khan Shekaki, who had been one of his leading generals, but who was suspected of having been privy to the murder. Since then the "Taj-e-Mah" and "Darya-i-Nûr" have remained in the possession of the Persian monarchs, and are now set in a pair of magnificent bracelets, which are reputed to be worth about a million sterling.

Our authority for this statement, and in fact, for nearly all our historical notes, regarding both the "Taj-e-Mah" and "Darya-i-Nûr," is Sir John Malcolm, who visited Persia in an official capacity early in the present century, and who, at an interview with the Shah in Teheran, was allowed to inspect the crown regalia. He thus relates the incident in his *Sketches of Persia*, published anonymously, 1827 :— "The king, at this visit, appeared in great good humour with the Elchî, and gratified the latter by shewing him his richest jewels, amongst which was the 'Sea of Light,' which is deemed one of the purest and most valuable diamonds in the world. Many of the others are surprisingly splendid." Sir John Malcolm adds, 'The 'Darya-i-Nur,' or 'Sea of Light' weighs 186 carats, and is considered to be the diamond of the finest lustre in the world. The 'Taj-e-Mah,' or 'Crown of the Moon,' is also a splendid diamond. It weighs 146 carats. These two are the principal in a pair of bracelets, valued at near a million sterling. Those in the crown are also of extraordinary size and value.'

In our account of the "Koh-i-Nûr" allusion was made to the horrible practice of gouging out the eyes of political opponents, until recently so prevalent both in Persia and Afghanistan. The indifference with which these frightful cruelties came to be regarded, even by the victims themselves, is well illustrated by the following graphic story of Riza Kuli Khan, related by Sir John Malcolm in the work just quoted.

"Riza Kuli Khan, the governor of Kazerûn, came to pay the Elchî a visit. This old nobleman had a silk band over his eye-sockets, having had his eyes put out during the late contest between the Zend and Kajar families for the throne of Persia. He began, soon after he was seated, to relate his misfortunes, and the tears actually came to my eyes, at the thoughts of the old man's sufferings, when judge of my surprise to find it was to entertain, not to distress us, he was giving this narration, and that, in spite of the revolting subject, I was compelled to smile at the tale, which in any country except Persia, would have been deemed a subject for a tragedy. But as poisons may by use become aliment, so misfortunes, however dreadful, when they are of daily occurrence, appear like common events of life. But it was the manner and feelings of the narrator that, in this instance, gave the comic effect to the tragedy of which he was the hero.

"I had been too active a partizan," said Riza Khan, "of the Kajir family, to expect much mercy when I fell into the hands of the rascally tribe of Zend. I looked for death, and was rather surprised

at the lenity which only condemned me to the loss of my eyes. A stout fellow of a feresh (menial servant), came as executioner of the sentence. He had in his hand a large blunt knife, which he meant to make his instrument. I offered him twenty tomâms if he would use a penknife I shewed him. He refused in the most brutal manner, called me a merciless villain, asserting that I had slain his brother, and that he had solicited the present office to gratify his revenge, adding, his only regret was, not being allowed to put me to death. "Seeing," continued Riza, "that I had no tenderness to look for from this fellow, I pretended submission, and laid myself on my back. He seemed quite pleased, tucked up his sleeves, brandished his knife, and very composedly put one knee on my chest, and was proceeding to his butchering work, as if I had been a stupid innocent lamb, that was quite content to do what he chose. Observing him, from this impression, off his guard, I raised one of my feet, and, planting it on the pit of his stomach, sent him "heels over head" in a way that would have made you laugh (imitating with his foot the action he described, and laughing heartily himself at the recollection of it). I sprang up, so did my enemy; we had a short tussle, but he was stronger, and, having knocked me down, succeeded in taking out my eyes." "The pain at the moment," said the old Khan, "was lessened by the warmth occasioned by the struggle. The wounds soon healed, and when the Kajirs obtained the undisputed sovereignty of Persia, I was rewarded for my suffering in their cause. All my sons have been promoted, and I am governor of this town and province. Here I am

in affluence, and enjoy a repose to which *men who can see* are, in this country, perfect strangers. If there is a deficiency of revenue, or any real or alleged cause for which another governor would be removed, beaten, or put to death, the king says, "Never mind ; it is only poor blind Riza Kuli ; let him alone." So you observe Elchî, that I have no reason to complain, being in fact better defended from misfortune by the loss of my two eyes than I could by the possession of twenty of the clearest in Persia," and he laughed again at this second joke."

XVII.

THE AUSTRIAN YELLOW.

Official History—A Romantic Story—A Great Diamond Mistaken for a Piece of Glass—Fact and Fiction—Charles the Bold and “The Florentine”—A Splendid “Cap of Maintenance.”



HE history and identity of this stone have given rise to much controversy ; but there can be no longer any reasonable doubt that it is the same gem which Tavernier tells us he saw “more than once” amongst the treasures of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and which has been variously known as the “Tuscan,” the “Florentine,” and the “Austrian.” He says that “it weighs $139\frac{1}{2}$ carats, is pure and of fine form, cut on all sides in facets, and of a citron tint,” a description corresponding in every respect to that of the stone under consideration. It was the largest diamond in Europe in his time, but owing to its citron or yellow colour was not so highly esteemed as it would otherwise have been. According to the rule given by Tavernier for calculating the market value of large stones, he finds that “this diamond should be worth 2,608,335 livres.”* It has been in the possession

* “Le diamant du Grand Duc de Toscane pèse $129\frac{1}{2}$ carats, et il est de belle forme taillé de tous les costez à facettes, et comme l'eau tire un peu sur la couleur de citron je ne mets le premier carat qu'à 135 livres

of the House of Austria since the time of Maria Theresa, and the subjoined official account of it is embodied in the recently issued *Catalogue of the Objects contained in the Treasury of the Imperial and Royal House of Austria*, kindly forwarded to us by the Austrian Ambassador in London :—

“The ‘Florentine,’ also called the ‘Great Florentine diamond,’ actually forming part of a hat-button, is known to be one of the largest diamonds in the world. It weighs $133\frac{1}{3}$ carats of Vienna,[†] but is rather yellow. The stone is cut in nine surfaces covered with facets forming a star with nine rays. This jewel was once the property of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who according to the custom of the day carried all his valuables in the battle-field, first to have them always in sight, and, secondly, on account of the mysterious power then attributed to precious stones. Charles lost this diamond at the battle of Morat on the 22nd June, 1476. Tradition relates that it was picked up by a peasant who took it for a piece of glass, and sold it for a florin. The new owner, Bartholomew May, a citizen of Berne, sold it

sur lequel pied le diamant doit valoir 2,608,335 livres.”—Vol. II., p. 290 of 1682 ed. The rule is here laid down at p. 288. Square the number of carats, and multiply result by the price of a stone of one carat of same value as the stone in question. For the price varies with the quality of the stone itself. Thus a perfect stone of one carat being valued at 150 livres, the price of such a stone weighing 12 carats will be $12 \times 12 \times 150 = 21,600$ —the price in livres. It may be remarked that this rule is usually credited to Jeffries, who lived nearly 100 years after the time of its real author.

[†] The Viennese carat is somewhat larger than the French, the former weighing 206.1300, the latter 205.500 milligrams only. The $133\frac{1}{3}$ carats of Vienna would thus make about $139\frac{1}{2}$ French carats, the weight given by Tavernier.

to the Genoese, who sold it in turn to Ludovico Moro Sforza. By the intercession of the Fuggers it came into the Medici treasury at Florence. When Francis Stephen of Lorraine exchanged this Duchy against the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, he became the owner of the 'Florentine Diamond.' Through this prince, who became later on the consort of the Empress Maria Theresa, this diamond came into the private treasury of the Imperial House at Vienna. At the coronation of Francis Stephen as Emperor of Germany at Frankfort-on-the-Main, the 4th day of October, 1745, the 'Florentine diamond' adorned the crown of the House of Austria."

It is much to be regretted that this official statement should adopt the erroneous view that the "Florentine" belonged originally to Charles the Bold. If it did belong to him, a most violent supposition in any case, it was certainly not one of the three diamonds which Robert de Berquem tells us that prince placed in the hands of his great uncle, L. de Berquem, inventor of the art of diamond cutting, "to have them advantageously cut, according to his skill. He cut them forthwith (that is apparently in 1476), one thick another thin (*foible*), and the third in triangular shape. And he succeeded so well that the Duke, delighted at such a surprising invention, gave him three thousand ducats in recompense." He adds that Charles gave the "foible," or thin stone to Pope Sixtus IV.; and the triangular one to Louis XI; and that he kept the third or thick one for himself, wearing it in his ring "when he was killed before Nancy, one year after having had them cut, that is in 1477." But it is not

to be supposed that a diamond weighing $139\frac{1}{2}$ carats could be worn in a ring, so that the "Florentine" must have been a different stone from that here spoken of. Besides De Comines, whose account of the Duke's diamonds is much more reliable than that of Berquem, writing 200 years after the event, tells us that "his great diamond, which was one of the largest in Christendom," was lost, not at the battle of Nancy, in January, 1477, but at that of Granson in 1476, on which occasion Charles lost "all his large jewels" (*toutes ses grandes bagues*), together with all his baggage.

The story goes that this "great diamond" was lost by Charles in the confusion of the rout, but that a common Swiss soldier found it, together with a valuable pearl in a box. Mistaking the diamond for a bit of glass, he threw it aside, but on second thoughts picked it up from under a waggon where it had fallen. He then sold it for a florin to a priest at Montigny, who in his turn disposed of it for three francs to the Bernese authorities. At that time there was residing at Berne a wealthy merchant, named Bartholomew May, who had many relations both of a commercial and private character with Italy. Having purchased the gem for 5,000 florins, and a present to the Mayor, William von Diessland, through whose mediation the sale had been effected, May sold it for a small profit to a Genoese dealer. From him the Milanese Regent, Ludovico Moro Sforza, bought it for some 10,000 florins, and when the treasures of Milan were distributed, Pope Julius II. purchased it for 20,000 ducats.

But this story is in flat contradiction to the positive statement of J. J. Fugger, who assures us that the diamond in question was purchased from the Bernese Government, not by Bartholomew May, but by his own great uncle, Jacob Fugger, head of the famous Nürenberg family of that name, together with the "Cap of Maintenance," and other jewels belonging to the Duke of Burgundy all for 47,000 florins.

In a curious document, illustrated by himself in 1555, and published by Lambecius in the *Bibliotheca Cæsarea*, Fugger gives a detailed account of these jewels. But his description of Charles the Bold's large diamond, which, he says, was the talk of all Christendom,* answers to that of none of the large diamonds now extant in Europe, and least of all to the "Florentine." He says it formed a pyramid five-eighths of an inch square at the base, with the apex cut into a *four-rayed star* in relief, each star coinciding with the middle of each face of the pyramid. It was the central piece in a beautiful pendant of diamonds, rubies, and pearls, which remained for some years in the Fugger family. It thus came into the hands of the author of the manuscript, who sold the pendant to Henry VIII., of England, in 1547, shortly before his death. It continued to form part of the English regalia during the reign of Edward VI. But soon after her accession to the throne, Queen Mary presented it to her husband Philip II., 1554. And thus it happened, as Fugger remarks, that after a period of seventy-six years (1477—1554) this diamond returned

* "Der grosz und dicht spitzig Diamante, von dem in der gantzen Christenheit gesagt wurd."

to the representative, in the fourth descent, of its original owner, Charles the Bold, of Burgundy.

It is thus placed beyond doubt that the stone lost by Charles, whether at Granson or Nancy, ultimately found its way through Switzerland, and Jacob Fugger, and his great nephew J. J. Fugger, into the possession of Henry VIII., by whose daughter Mary it was presented to Philip II. But the "Florentine" passed directly from the Grand Duke of Tuscany to Maria Theresa. Consequently the introduction of the Fugger family into the above official account of the stone, with which they had nothing to do, arises out of a misconception or a confusion of the traditions associated with two distinct gems. It thus appears that the "Florentine" cannot clearly be traced to Charles the Bold at all. Its authentic history really begins with the Grand Duke of Tuscany, in whose possession it was when examined and weighed by Tavernier. Its form and treatment ("cut on all sides in facets") are distinctly Indian, which again renders it extremely improbable that this stone was one of those manipulated by De Berquem for the Burgundian prince. We are thus led to the conclusion that the "Florentine" probably reached Italy direct from the East, and that the many stories and legends associated with Charles the Bold and his regalia have been transferred to the "Florentine" through the ignorance of writers who lived long after the events they were describing.

Whatever doubt might remain on this point is disposed of by a consideration of the respective forms of the stones themselves. Both are said

to be star-shaped. But we have seen that Fugger describes the Burgundian as "a pyramid, with the apex cut into a *four-rayed star* in relief," whereas we are officially told that the "Florentine" "is cut in nine surfaces, covered with facets forming a *star with nine rays*."

Another still more extravagant tradition identifies the "Florentine" with the "Sancy," from which, as will be seen further on, it differs in weight, form, colour, and history. The true origin of both of these historical gems may doubtless be wrapped in obscurity, but that they are two totally distinct stones there cannot be the shadow of a doubt.

Owing to the confusion between the "Fugger" and "Florentine," the latter has sometimes been called the "Maximilian," as by Murray, who writes that "the 'Maximilian,' or Austrian diamond, is of a yellow colour and rose cut, and has been an heirloom in the family ever since the emperor of that name." But we have seen above that it did not pass into the Austrian family until the time of Maria Theresa. It was one of the gems purchased by Jacob Fugger that passed into the hands of Maximilian II., for whom Fugger broke up the "Cap of Maintenance," resetting all the jewels adorning it. He describes it as of silk, and covered with pearls, with a hat-band of sapphires and rubies, and a plume-case set with alternate rows of good-sized diamonds, pearls, and rubies. It would thus seem that one of these "good-sized diamonds" has developed into a stone of $139\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and that the latter has been made an "heir-loom" of the House of Austria nearly two hundred years before

it crossed the Alps ; for Maximilian II. reigned from 1564 to 1576, while Maria Theresa married Francis Stephen of Lorraine in 1736.

This stone has been variously estimated at £40,000 to £50,000, and even at £155,000. But for its citron hue the latter might not perhaps be too high an estimate of its value.

XVIII.

THE PITT OR REGENT.

Found by a Slave—Stolen by an English Skipper—Treachery and Murder—Sold for £1,000—Bought for £24,500—Resold to the Regent of France for £135,000—Stolen and Restored to the Garde-Meuble—Pawned to the Dutch—Redeemed and Worn by Napoleon the Great—Captured after Waterloo, and taken to Berlin—On View at the Paris Exhibition—Among the Crown Jewels of France, and Valued at £480,000.



FIRST known as the "Pitt," then as the "Regent," this perfect diamond has a remarkable history. There are two stories of its original discovery. They do not differ sufficiently to cast a doubt upon the general facts. The second version of the narrative is easily reconcilable with the first.

The adventures of the "Pitt" begin very much on the lines of several other great stones. Cupidity, murder, remorse, are factors in the opening chapter. Trouble, political, social, and personal, accompany the gem to its latest resting-place. It was found by a slave in the Partéal mines, on the Kistna, in the year 1701. The story goes that, to secure his treasure, he cut a hole in the calf of his leg, and concealed it, one account says, in the wound itself, another in the

bandages. As the stone weighed 410 carats before it was cut, the last version of the method of concealment is, no doubt, the correct one. The slave escaped to the coast with his property. Unfortunately for himself, and also for the peace of mind of his confidant, he met with an English skipper, whom he trusted with his secret. It is said he offered to give the diamond to the mariner, in return for his liberty, which was to be secured by the skipper carrying him to a free country. But it seems probable that he supplemented this with a money condition as well, otherwise the skipper's treatment of the poor creature is as devoid of reason as it is of humanity. The English skipper, professing to accept the slave's proposals, took him on board his ship, and having obtained possession of the jewel, flung the slave into the sea. He afterwards, so this first version of the narrative goes, sold the diamond to Mr. Thomas Pitt, governor of Fort St. George, for £1,000, squandered the money in dissipation, and finally, in a fit of *delirium tremens* and remorse, hanged himself.

There is no reason to doubt the substantial accuracy of this characteristic beginning of the adventures of the great diamond, with a trifling exception. The English sea captain sold it in all probability for £1,000, not to Mr. Pitt, but to Jamchund, at that time the largest diamond merchant in the East, who, it will be seen in the course of our history, sold it to Mr. Pitt for £20,400. The circumstances connected with his purchase of the gem, are fully related by Pitt himself, who, on his return to Europe in 1710, was suspected, and even openly accused, of having

procured it by foul or unfair means. Amongst others Pope was supposed to point at something of the kind in the oft-quoted lines from the *Man of Ross*.

“Asleep and naked as an Indian lay,
An honest factor stole a gem away;
He pledg'd it to the Knight, the Knight had wit,
So kept the diamond, and the rogue was bit.”

These scandalous reports, to which, however much credence never seems to have been attached, having reached the ex-governor, at that time in Norway, he sent a letter from Bergen to the editor of the *European Magazine* for October, 1710, setting forth the true facts of the case. A certified copy of this document was carefully preserved in the Pitt family, and, in consequence of some fresh rumours regarding the early history of the diamond, was again published by them in the *Daily Post* for November 3, 1743, that is, seventeen years after Pitt's death. The chief passages bearing on the transaction are here subjoined from the latter source :—

“Since my coming into this melancholy place of Bergen, I have been often thinking of the most unparalleled villany of William Fraser, Thomas Frederick, and Sampa, a black merchant, who brought a paper before Governor Addison* in council, insinuating that I had unfairly got possession of a large diamond, which tended so much to the prejudice of my reputation, and the ruin of my estate, that I thought necessary to keep by me the true relation how I purchased it in all respects, that so in case of sudden mortality, my children and friends may be apprized

* This was a brother of the celebrated poet and essayist. He succeeded Pitt as governor of Fort St. George in 1709 or 1710.

of the whole matter, and so be enabled thereby to put to silence and confound those and all other villains, in their base attempts against either.

“About two or three years after my arrival at Madras, which was in July, 1698, I heard there were large diamonds in the country to be sold, which I encouraged to be brought down, promising to be their chaperon, if they would be reasonable therein, upon which Jamchund, one of the most eminent diamond merchants in these parts, came down about December, 1701, and brought with him a large rough stone, about 305 mangelins, and some small ones, which myself and others bought. But he, asking a very extravagant price for the great one, I did not think of meddling with it; when he left it with me for some days, and then came and took it away again, and did so several times, insisting upon not less than 200,000 pagodas,* and as I best remember, I did not bid him more than 30,000, and had little thoughts of buying it for that. I considered there were many and great risks to be run, not only in cutting it, but whether it would prove foul or clean, or the water good. Besides, I thought it too great an amount to venture home in one bottom, so that Jamchund resolved to return speedily to his own country, so that, I best remember, it was in February following he came again to me (with Vincaty Chittee, who was always with him when I discoursed about it), and pressed me to know whether I resolved to buy it,

* As a pagoda is worth about 8s. 6d., this would be equivalent to about £35,000.

when he came down to 100,000 padagoes, and something under before we parted, when we agreed upon a day to meet and to make a final end thereof, one way or other, which I believe was the latter end of the aforesaid month, or beginning of March, when we met in the consultation room, when, after a great deal of talk, I brought him down to 55,000 padagoes, and advanced to 45,000, resolving to give no more and he likewise not to abate, so delivered him up the stone, and we took a friendly leave of one another. Mr. Benyon was then writing in my closet, with whom I discoursed what had passed, and told him now I was clear of it; when, about half-an-hour after, my servant brought me word that Jamchund and Vincaty Chittee were at the door, who, being called in, they used a great many expressions in praise of the stone; and told me he had rather I should buy it than anybody; and, to give an instance thereof, offered it for 50,000. So, believing it must be a pennyworth if it proved good, I offered to part the 5,000 padagoes that were between us, which he would not hearken to, and was going out of the room again, when he turned back, and told me I should have it for 49,000. But I still adhered to what I had before offered him, when presently he came to 48,000, and made a solemn vow he would not part with it for a pagadoe under; when I went again into the closet to Mr. Benyon, and told him what had passed, saying that if it was worth 47,500 it was worth 48,000.* So I closed with him

* Pitt, who throughout spells "padagoe" for pagoda, here appends a note in which he reduces the 48,000 pagodas to "£20,400 sterling, at 8s. 6d. per padagoe."

for that sum, when he delivered me the stone, for which I paid him honourably, as by my books doth appear. And I here further call God to witness that I never used the least threatening word at any of our meetings to induce him to sell it to me ; and God Himself knows it was never so much as in my thoughts so to do. Since which I have had frequent and considerable dealings with this man, and trusted him with several sums of money, and balanced several accounts with him, and left upwards of 2,000 padagoes in his hands at my coming away. So had I used the least indirect means to have got it from him, would he not have made himself satisfaction, when he has had my money so often in his hands ? Or would I have trusted him afterwards, as I did preferable to all other diamond merchants ? As this is the truth, so I hope for God's blessing upon this and all my other affairs in this world, and eternal happiness hereafter.—Written and signed by me in Bergen, July 29, 1710.—THO. PITT."

On the back of this declaration the following words are written :—"In case of the death of me, Tho. Pitt, I direct that this paper, sealed as it is, be delivered to my son, Robert Pitt."

In publishing this document the editor of the *Daily Post* observes that he does so "at this time of day" (that is seventeen years after Pitt's death), "by desire, and hopes that the following piece will give satisfaction to all those who may still suspect that that gentleman did not fairly come by the said stone."

No doubt Pitt drove rather a hard bargain with Jamchund ; but there was otherwise nothing

dishonourable or even unusual in the transaction. It will be noticed that in this account there is no reference to the story of the slave, about which neither Pitt nor Jamchund were likely to know anything. The governor was evidently under the impression that the dealer had brought the stone with many others down from the diamond-fields, while the dealer, if he picked up such a gem for £1,000 from a sea-captain on the coast, would naturally abstain from asking any indiscreet questions, whatever his suspicions might be. The fact that Jamchund ultimately closed for 48,000 pagodas, or a little over £20,000, after asking 200,000 pagodas, or £85,000, would almost imply that he was glad to get rid of the diamond "at a sacrifice," because conscious that the circumstances attending its purchase would not bear any severe scrutiny.

Pitt's account of his share in the transaction was afterwards fully confirmed by Mr. Salmon who was present on the occasion. Yet it appears that the stone, which had been consigned by Pitt to Sir Stephen Evance, of London, and sent home in the ship *Bedford*, (Captain John Hudson), was charged in the original bill of lading at 6,500 pagodas only. This might have been done either to save freight, or more probably to avoid attracting attention to the stone, and thereby exposing it to the risk of being stolen.

The diamond was cut very skilfully in London, and in the process, which lasted two years, it was reduced from 410 to $136\frac{3}{4}$ carats. The editor of the *Museum Britannicum* stated at the time that the cutting and polishing cost £5,000, and Jeffries, who

points out the mistake made in the operation, and shows how it might be improved, remarks that there is only one small speck, and that placed in such a position as not to be detected in the setting. He also says that another £5,000 was spent in negotiating its sale to the Regent, Duke of Orleans, who purchased it in 1717, during the minority of Louis XV., for £135,000. The cleavage and dust obtained in the cutting were also valued at from £7,000 to £8,000,* so that Pitt must have netted at least £100,000 by his venture. With this he restored the fortunes of the ancient house of Pitt, which was destined later on to give to England two of her greatest statesmen and orators, for the governor of Fort St. George was grandfather of the great Earl of Chatham, father of the illustrious William Pitt. He was born at Blandford, in Dorsetshire, where he was buried in May, 1726. In the funeral oration preached on the occasion by the Rev. Canon R. Eyre, the following reference was made to the "diamond scandal:"—"That he should have enemies no wonder, when envy will make them, and when their malice could reach him in no other way, it is as little to be wondered at that they should make such an attempt upon his credit by an abusive story as if it had been by some stretch of his power that he got that diamond which was of too value for any subject to purchase, an ornament more

* These figures, like almost everything else connected with the history of the great historical diamonds, are variously given in different writers. Thus Murray (p. 59) gives, as here stated, "from £7,000 to £8,000;" while King (p. 83) says that "the value of the fragments separated in shaping it amounted to £3,500" He adds that it became by the process, "for perfection of shape as well as for purity of water the first diamond in the world; as it still continues."

fitly becoming an Imperial crown, which if it be considered, may be one reason why it was brought to the governor by the merchant who sold it in the Indies, and it was brought to him once or twice before he could be persuaded to part with so great a sum of money for it, as it cost him."

Even after refuting the calumnies of his enemies, Pitt knew little rest until he was quit of his costly jewel. He was constantly haunted by a morbid fear of losing or being robbed of it, so that it was with great difficulty he could ever be induced to exhibit it even to his most intimate friends. The German traveller, Offenbach, when visiting England in 1712, anxious to see all the sights of the metropolis, made several vain attempts to get a view of the gem, which had already become famous throughout the West. While it remained in his possession the ex-governor never slept two nights running under the same roof. He moved about capriciously, or in disguise, and never gave previous notice of his arrival to, or departure, from town.

At last he was relieved of further anxiety by the negotiations, in consequence of which the "Pitt" became, the "Regent," passing from its English owner into the hands of the Duke of Orleans, Regent of France, in 1717. After being cut in the form of an almost faultless brilliant, a model of the diamond was taken, which is now in the British Museum,* and on the silver frame is engraved the

* Murray (p. 65) says that in the same place there is another "model of the 'Pitt' diamond in its original rough form in lead."

legend: "This is the model of Governor Pitt's diamond, weight $136\frac{1}{2}$ carats; was sold to Louis XV. of France, A.D. 1717." This model, or rather a duplicate without the frame, had been sent to Paris and submitted to the famous Scotch financier John Law, at that time at the height of his power in France. Law took the stone first to the Regent, and then to the Duc de Saint Simon,* who gives a full account of the affair in his *Memoirs*. Saint Simon agreed with Law that France ought to possess a gem which up to that time was incomparably the finest ever seen in Europe. Yielding to their combined efforts, the Regent at last consented to purchase it for £135,000,† including £5,000 for the negotiations, a euphemistic expression, which, translated into plain language, meant a bribe for Law. Money, however, was just then so scarce, that the interest alone was paid on the amount, jewels being given as security for the principal until it was paid off. This price, great as it may appear to be, was even then regarded as much below its real value, and in the inventory of the French Crown Jewels, drawn up in 1791, it is valued at 12,000,000 francs, or £480,000.

The year after the preparation of this inventory which was made by a commission of the most experienced jewellers in Paris, the whole of the French

* Saint Simon, who seems to have known nothing of its early history, asserts that it was stolen by a person employed in the Indian diamond fields, who brought it to Europe. After showing it to the King of England, and several other English noblemen, he took it to Paris, where he submitted it to Law. Then follow the particulars of the negotiations with the French Regent, as stated in the text.

† But on this point the authorities are at variance with each other. Board says the figure was 2,250,000 francs; Jeffries, £125,000; others £130,000.

Regalia disappeared, and with it the "Pitt," now the "Regent," which stood at the head of the list. The remarkable circumstances attending this famous robbery of the *Garde-Meuble* are thus related by M. Breton, editor of the *Gazette des Tribunaux* :—

"The inventory of the Crown diamonds, made in 1791, in virtue of a decree of the Constituent Assembly, had scarcely been completed in the month of August, 1792, at the time of the last public exhibition, which took place on the first Tuesday of every month. After the sanguinary events of August 10th to September 2nd, this rich treasury was naturally closed to the public, and the Paris Commune, as representing the State property, put its seals on the cabinets in which had been placed the crown, the sceptre, and other ornaments of the coronation service. The golden shrine, bequeathed by Cardinal Richelieu to Louis XIII., with all the accompanying diamonds and rubies, and the famous golden vase, weighing 106 marks, besides a vast quantity of other vases in agate, amethyst, and rock crystal. On the morning of September 17th, Sergent and the two other commissioners of the Commune, perceived that during the night robbers had made their way in by scaling the colonnade from the side of the Place Louis XV., and through a window looking in that direction. having thus got access to the vast halls of the *Garde-Meuble*, they had broken the seals without forcing the locks, carried off the priceless treasures contained in the cabinets, and disappeared without leaving any other traces of their presence. Several persons were arrested, but released after a protracted enquiry. An

anonymous letter, addressed to the Commune stated, that some of the stolen objects were in a ditch in the Allée des Veuves, Champs-Élysées. Sergent at once proceeded with his colleagues to the spot, which had been very carefully indicated. Here were found amongst other things the famous "Regent" diamond, and the no less famous agate-onyx cup, known by the name of the Abbé Suger's Chalice, which was afterwards placed in the cabinet of antiques in the National Library.

"Notwithstanding the investigations made at the time and subsequently, it remained uncertain whether this robbery had a political object, or whether it was simply the act of ordinary criminals, undertaken at a time when the guardians of the public security were in a state of complete disorganization. Some said that the proceeds of these treasures were intended to maintain the army of the emigrants. Others, on the contrary, pretended that Pethion and Manuel had used them to obtain the evacuation of Champagne, by giving up the whole to the King of Prussia. Some even went so far as to assert that the keepers themselves had broken open the cabinets, and Sergent, of whom we have above spoken, was nick-named *Agate*, in consequence of the mysterious way in which he had found the agate-onyx cup. But none of these more or less absurd surmises ever received any judicial confirmation.

"Nevertheless, there was one circumstance of which I was witness, jointly with the others present at the sitting of the special criminal court of Paris, when Bourgeois and others accused of having forged notes

on the Bank of France, were put upon their trial in 1804. One of the accused, who had assumed the name of *Baba*, had at first denied all the charges brought against him. But during the proceedings he made a complete confession, and explained the ingenious devices employed by the forgers. 'It is not the first time,' he added, 'that my revelations have been useful to society, and if I am now condemned, I will implore the emperor's pardon. But for me, Napoleon would never have mounted the throne; to me alone is due the success of the Marengo campaign. I was one of the robbers of the Garde-Meuble. I had assisted my associates to bury in the Allée des Veuves the 'Regent' and the other easily recognized objects, by which they might have been betrayed. On the promise of a free pardon, a promise which was faithfully kept, I disclosed the hiding-place. Here the 'Regent' was recovered, and you are aware, gentlemen, that this magnificent diamond was pledged by the first Consul to the Dutch Government, in order to raise the money, of which he stood in the greatest need after the 18th Brumaire.'

"The criminals were all condemned to the galleys except Bourgeois and Baba, who were sent to the prison of Bicêtre, where they died. I do not know whether Baba made any further revelations beyond what I have reported, and which may also be read in the *Journal de Paris* of that date."

Since its recovery and redemption from the Dutch Government, the "Regent" seems to have remained in the French treasury to the present time. The first emperor is known to have worn it in the

pommel of his sword, and Barbot tells us expressly that it was publicly shown amongst the Crown jewellery, at the Paris Exhibition of 1855.* Still it is remarkable that this brilliant does not figure in the inventory of the State Jewels, drawn up by order of Napoleon in 1810, nor apparently in any of the subsequent official reports on the Crown jewels. This circumstance, however it is to be explained, has doubtless, lent some colouring to the many conflicting statements regarding its subsequent vicissitudes. Kluge asserts that after its recovery in 1792, it was pledged, not to the Dutch Government, but to Treskow a merchant in Berlin. He also refers to the highly improbable report that, after the battle of Waterloo, where the Prussians found it in the Emperor's State carriage, it was carried off to the Prussian treasury. If it really was taken to Berlin on that occasion, it was subsequently restored to the French Government, for Ersch and Gruber, writing in 1833, distinctly state that at that time it was "the first diamond in the French treasury."† Barbot also justly regards it as the most conspicuous gem in the now disused crown of France.

* "Tout le monde a pu admirer cette magnifique pierre parmi les paures de la couronne à l'Exposition Universelle de 1855, et contempler sa rare et unique beauté." *Op. cit.* p. 240. Touching its "rare and singular beauty," this writer, a most competent judge in such matters, adds (p. 44), "Ce qui fait la valeur du 'Regent' ne gît pas seulement dans son poids mais bien en ce qu'il est l'unique parmi toutes les pierres princières, réunissant les plus rares qualités des gros diamants, c'est-à-dire blancheur éclat et surtout beauté de forme. Il en est certes plus volumineux, mais s'il fallait les ramener à la pureté de forme du 'Regent' aucun n'atteindrait son poids."

† "Er ist der erste Diamant im französischen Schatze." *Allgemeine Encyclopädie.* Vol 24, p. 456.

This crown, which also contains eight other diamonds, weighing from 19 to 28 carats, is thus by far the richest in the world.*

The form of the "Regent," is somewhat round, an inch broad, $1\frac{1}{6}$ of an inch long, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick. It was reduced in cutting from 410 to $136\frac{7}{8}$ carats, and has been estimated to be worth £480,000.

* The Ministry of Finance was visited this afternoon by the Parliamentary Committee entrusted with the examination of the bill relative to the sale of the Crown Jewels. The committee was received by M. Antonin Proust and by MM. Bapst, the jewellers, who gave it all the necessary information. It appears that during the Restoration the Crown jewels were deposited with the Bapsts. Under Louis Philippe they were kept in the Garde Meuble, and during the Empire, M. Thélin had them safely locked up in a strong box. They are now in chests in a cellar at the Ministry of Finance, and it is in this subterranean chamber that they were laid out to-day. The ornaments that possess a historic or an artistic value had been separated from the rest. They include a collection of decorations sent to the sovereigns of France by foreign monarchs, and are valued at £8,000 sterling; a watch presented by the Dey of Algiers to Louis Quatorze and worth £120; a brooch of diamonds, of antique cut, valued at about £3,000; and a sword, the hilt of which, mounted in 1824, is a fine specimen of chaste French workmanship. MM. Bapst advised the committee to retain all these articles, as they were really worth far more than their money value. There is, consequently, every reason to believe that they will eventually find their way to the Apollo Gallery at the Louvre. As for the "Regent" a diamond unique in the world on account of its size, the jewellers also opposed its sale. It was formerly valued as high as half a million sterling, but there is always risk that it might not fetch more than £25,000, and its acquisition by some enterprising showman would be scarcely creditable to this country. Such were the arguments used by MM. Bapst, and their counsels will probably be followed in this as in other matters. The other jewels, estimated—*en bloc*—at about half a million pounds, have no historic value. There are only three parures, the sapphire, the turquoise, and the ruby parure, the last made expressly for the Duchesse de Berry. All the other jewels were arranged and altered again and again, to suit the taste of the Empress Eugénie. I may add that the committee has not yet arrived at any definite decision, but will revisit the Crown jewels in the course of the week.—"Paris Correspondent," *Daily Telegraph*, December 8, 1881.

XIX.

THE MOUNTAIN OF SPLENDOUR.

Persia in Poetry and Romance—The Shah in England—A Precious Gem, the History of which is at present unknown.



HE *Arabian Nights*, *Lallah Rooke*, and Eastern fable generally, coupled with the sack of Delhi by Nadir Shah, and the accumulation of its strange hordes of wealth in

“That delightful Province of the Sun,”

have surrounded Persia with a halo of romance studded with precious gems. There was once a brilliant reality in the “untold treasures” of Persia, but that time, it is to be feared, is past, and the tendency of the prosaic age in which we live is to go to the extremes in discounting the exaggerations of history, leaving nothing to the imagination. For example, when the Shah visited England for the first time satirists questioned the genuineness of his jewelled decorations, and horticulturists declared that in spite of “the Bower of Roses by Bendemere’s stream,” his majesty saw more and finer examples of Persia’s favourite flower in London than ever he saw at home. The Shah, wore what appeared to be fine gems, but they were

mostly roses or very flat brilliants. There is supposed to be still in the Persian regalia a large and lovely stone, weighing 135 carats, valued at £145,800, known as the "Mountain of Light." It is mentioned by Murray, in a quotation from *Sketches of Persia*, published in 1838. Further than arriving at the bare fact of its supposed existence, our investigations in regard to this precious gem have had no result. We have reason to believe that even the Persian Ambassador has found it impossible to assist our inquiries to a satisfactory conclusion.

XX.

THE ABBAS MÎRZA.

Pieces of the "Great Mogul"—Dr. Beke and the "Koh-i-Nûr"
—Evidence against his theory, and that of Professor
Tennant—Complete identification of the "Abbas
Mirza,"



IN a previous chapter we ventured to express the opinion that Tavernier's "Great Mogul" has ceased to exist as such, and, to escape detection, has been cut up into two or more stones. If this view is correct there can be but little doubt that what we have named the "Abbas Mîrza" is one of these pieces. It turned up at the capture of Cûcha, in Khorassan, by the Persian general "Abbas Mîrza," in 1832, but attracted little attention until the meeting of the British Association in 1851. On that occasion a statement was made by Dr. Beke, of the Chemical Section, "On a Diamond Slab supposed to have been cut from the Koh-i-Nûr." The subjoined report of Dr. Beke's views appeared at the time in the *Athenæum*, for July 5, 1851:—

"It appears that in 1832, the Persian army of Abbas Mîrza, for the subjugation of Khorassan, found at the capture of Cûcha, among the jewels of the harem of Reeza Kooli Khan, a large diamond slab, supposed to have been cut from the 'Koh-i-Nûr.' It weighed 130 carats, and showed the marks of cutting

on the flat or largest side. The only account that could be obtained of it was the statement that it was found in the possession of a poor man, a native of Khorassan, and that it had been employed in his family for the purpose of striking a light against a steel, and in this rough service it had sustained injury by constant use. The diamond was presented by the Prince of Persia to his father Futteh Ali Shah. The Armenian jewellers of Teheran asked the sum of 20,000 tomaums (about £10,000 sterling) for cutting it; but the Shah was not disposed to incur the expense. These particulars had been forwarded to Dr. Beke by his brother, Mr. W. G. Beke, late colonel of engineers in the Persian service, and Khorassan campaign."

At the meeting of the British Association in 1852, Section B., Chemical Science, Professor Tennant, as reported in the *Athenæum* of Sept. 25, 1852, expressed his opinion that Dr. Blake's view was correct. "He had made models in fluor spar, and afterwards broken them, and obtained specimens which would correspond in cleavage, weight, and size with the 'Koh-i-Nûr.' By this means he was enabled to include the piece described by Dr. Blake, and probably the large Russian diamond, as forming altogether but portions of one large diamond. The diamond belongs to the tessellar crystalline system, it yields readily to cleavage in four directions, parallel to the planes of the regular octahedron. Two of the largest planes of the 'Koh-i-Nûr,' when exhibited in the Crystal Palace, were cleavage planes; one of them had not been polished. This proved the specimen to be not a third of the weight

of the original crystal, which he believed to have been a rhomboid dodecahedron ; and if slightly elongated, which is a common form of the diamond, would agree with Tavernier's description of it bearing some resemblance to an egg. Sir D. Brewster made some observations, and stated that the English translation of Tavernier's work left out the minute details which were fully given in the original. Sir David expressed his satisfaction with Mr. Tennant's illustration, which clearly proved the diamond to be only a small part of a very large and fine stone."

Brewster's remark that the English translation of Tavernier's work omitted the minute details given by that writer is very significant in the present connection. Had those details, as set forth in our account of the "Great Mogul," received proper attention, subsequent writers could never have fallen into the mistake of confounding that stone with the "Koh-i-Nûr." Nor would Dr. Beke have here suggested that the slab found at Cûcha might be a portion of the "Koh-i-Nûr." The remarks made both by Tennant and Brewster, evidently show that they refer this fragment not to the "Koh-i-Nûr," but to Tavernier's "Great Mogul." Its weight being 138 carats, it could not be described by them as forming "only a small part" of the "Koh-i-Nûr," which was never known to weigh more than 186 carats altogether. Hence, Brewster's "very large and fine stone" must necessarily refer to the "Great Mogul," which was the only other stone of which the Cûcha slab could be described as "a small portion."

In his account of the "Great Mogul," the reader

will remember that Tavernier remarks : " if Hortensio knew his business well, he would have taken from this large stone some fine pieces, without wronging the king, and without having so much trouble to grind it down." The question here arises whether Borgio may not have adopted this very obvious course, concealing the fact to escape punishment, and secretly disposing of the fragments on the first favourable opportunity. In this case the Cûcha slab may well have been one such fragment, and the very circumstances attending its origin would then also sufficiently account for the mystery in which it is involved. Having been fraudulently obtained and secretly sold " for a song," to the first comer, it may have easily remained in the hands of obscure and ignorant persons, unacquainted with its true value, and have thus been ultimately " found in the possession of a poor man," in whose family " it had been employed for the purpose of striking a light against a steel," and have thus " sustained injury by *constant use*."

Since its discovery in 1832, the " Abbas Mîrza " has probably remained in the possession of the Persian kings, although we have failed to find any direct allusion to it in the public descriptions of the Shah's regalia.

XXI.

DU TOIT II.

The Pan Diggings, South Africa—Active Mining Operations
in 1871—The first important “Find.”



HIS stone is named after the “Du Toit’s Pan,” dry diggings,* in South Africa. The mine belonged to Mr. Van Wyke, and it began to prove attractive to a few diamond hunters for the first time in 1870. It is situated about twenty-four miles from the Vaal river. Within a short time after the first really active operations, some fine stones were discovered, and in 1871, there sprang up quite a lively encampment of diggers. “The Pan” is now worked by several mining companies. The “Du Toit II,” was found by Messrs. Stevens and Raath, on July 21, 1871. It weighed in the rough, 124 carats.

* They derived this name from the fact that there was no water there, and the diamonds having been originally discovered in a light sandy soil, it was thought that they could be found without the diggers having to undergo the laborious operations of cradling and washing the soil before sorting, which they had been compelled to do whilst operating on the banks of the river. The first of the dry diggings to attract public attention was Du Toit’s Pan, to which a few diggers had resorted before the close of 1870. Small diamonds had been found on this farm, and on the adjoining one, Du Toit’s Pan belonged to a Mr. Van Wyk, and Bultfontein to a Mr. Du Plooy. It is scarcely worth while to wade through the details of purchase and sale, and the disputes and actions at law, which came out of the purchase. It will be sufficient to state that these two farms ultimately became the property of the London and South African Exploration Company, and were, when first purchased by that company, under the jurisdiction of the Free State.—R. W. MURRAY in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*.

XXII.

THE MOON OF MOUNTAINS.

“Diamond Cut Diamond”—Nadir Shah Murdered by his own Troops—Shafforass and the Afghan Soldier—The Curse of Wealth—A Terrible Tragedy—Three Brothers Murder a Jew and an Afghan for the “Moon of Mountains”—Two Brothers Murdered by the Third—Adventures of the Assassin—The Law of Russia—The Story as told by Pallas—Shafforass the Murderer Retires and Marries, and is eventually Killed by his Son-in-Law.



AFTER unravelling the intricate history of the “Orloff,” so often interwoven with that of the “Moon of Mountains,” the tragic story of the latter gem flows smoothly enough. That this diamond originally belonged to the Mogul emperors, and passed from them together with a vast quantity of other treasures, to Nadir Shah, is highly probable. It seems to have been in the Persian conqueror’s possession for many years, and of all places visited by his destroying hosts, Delhi was by far the most likely to have harboured a rare stone, such as this. It was said to have been one of the two large diamonds which ornamented Nadir’s throne, and which were respectively known as the “Sun of the Sea,” and the “Moon of Mountains.” A few years after returning from his sanguinary campaign laden with spoil, his chariot wheels literally clogged with the blood of his helpless victims, he was murdered, and his ill-gotten treasures plundered and dispersed by his revolted and brutalized troops. This occurred in the year 1747, and a short time afterwards

an Afghan soldier, formerly in Nadir's service, made his appearance in Bassorah, a large town on the Shatt-el-Arab, about seventy miles from its mouth in the Persian Gulf. This place has long been a famous emporium for all sorts of Eastern produce, and to it the Afghan warrior brought his wares, consisting of one very large diamond, the "Moon of Mountains," an emerald of rare size and beauty, a fine ruby, a magnificent sapphire, since known to the Persians as the "Eye of Allah," besides many other costly jewels, all of which had doubtless fallen to his share when Nadir's effects were pillaged. At this time Shaffrass, an Armenian merchant, was residing in Bassorah, with his two brothers, and to him the Afghan offered his gems at a very tempting price. Shaffrass, however, who was greatly astonished at the sight of so many sparkling jewels in the hands of a common soldier, evidently unaware of their great value, was obliged to put him off for a few days, in order to find sufficient funds to effect the purchase. Meantime the Afghan became suspicious, and fancying that a snare was being laid for him, suddenly disappeared from Bassorah in the same mysterious way in which he had entered the place.

The Afghan had meantime, made his way to Bagdad, where he fell in with a Jew, to whom he disposed of his treasure for 65,000 piastres, or about £500 sterling, and two full blooded Arab horses. But unfortunately for himself, instead of returning to his home in the Suleiman Mountains, he remained loitering in the famous capital of the eastern Califs, squandering his easily acquired wealth in riot and dissipation

of all sorts. In the midst of his revels he one day ran against Shaffrass, who had unwittingly followed him to Bagdad, where he had a large trading connection. "Now," thought the wily Armenian, "I shall take good care not to lose sight of my man again, until the bargain is struck." He was not however, a little disappointed to learn that the wares had already been sold to a third party. Nevertheless, there was still hope of doing a stroke of business with the Jew, whose house the Afghan had pointed out, and on whom Shaffrass lost no time in calling. But, although he offered double the amount of the purchase money for the diamond alone, on which he had set his heart, the Jew declined to part with it. Shaffrass now held a consultation with his two brothers, who had joined him in Bagdad. The trio forthwith resolved to murder the Jew, and thus get possession of the coveted treasures. Having carried out this cold-blooded assassination, they also deemed it prudent to get rid of the Afghan, whose evidence would scarcely fail to incriminate them, when the matter came to be investigated. Taking advantage of his dissipated habits, they easily induced him to join them the next day in an entertainment, followed by a drinking bout, during which they found an opportunity of poisoning him in his cups. The two bodies were placed together in a sack, and, according to the approved Eastern method, thrown by night into the Tigris.*

* In the current versions of the story, the *Euphrates* has been substituted for the *Tigris*, with the usual lofty disregard of geography; for the reader need scarcely be reminded that Bagdad lies on the Tigris, about 190 miles above its junction with the Euphrates.

Everything had so far gone on smoothly enough. But when they came to the distribution of the plunder, each of the three murderers insisted on having the diamond. As it was impossible to divide the stone into three equal parts, and as neither brother would waive his claim Shaffrass settled the matter by treating his two brothers in the same way that they had treated the unfortunate Afghan. So the following night another sack, also containing two dead bodies, was quietly dropped into the river, and the Armenian found himself sole master of treasures, which on examination were found far to exceed in value his most sanguine expectations. Feeling that it would be dangerous to linger in a place where awkward inquiries might be set on foot at any moment, he packed up, and withdrew to Constantinople, whence he ultimately made his way through Hungary and Silesia to Holland. Here he set up as a dealer in precious stones, and drew the attention of the various European sovereigns to some of his choicer specimens. The Empress Catherine II., who seems to have been particularly taken by his description of the great diamond, sent him a pressing invitation to go to St. Petersburg, where she placed him in communication with the crown jeweller, M. Lasaroff. After some negotiations, he was offered an annuity of 10,000 roubles, together with a patent of nobility for certain of his gems. But Shaffrass, who desired something more tangible, demanded a cash payment of 600,000 roubles, which was considered rather exorbitant. However, Count Panin, at that time Catherine's favourite minister, was fully equal to the occasion, and in the long run proved

himself more than a match for the astute Oriental. Shaffrass was beguiled with fair words and empty promises. His demand was neither agreed to nor rejected, and he himself was gradually led into a style of living, which was far beyond his means, and obliged him to run heavily into debt. When his purse was exhausted and his credit broken, Panin suddenly put an end to the negotiations, and the Armenian was officially informed that he could not carry out his avowed intention of leaving Russia or even the capital until all his creditors were satisfied. Such was the law of the land, and no exception could be made in his favour. He now found himself at the mercy of the minister. Nevertheless, he determined not to sacrifice the diamond, which had already cost him so much blood. He accordingly raised money enough to meet his liabilities by the sale of some smaller gems amongst the Armenians of St. Petersburg, paid his debts, and suddenly withdrew from the capital.

He was now completely lost sight of ; but ten years later the Russian Court received intimation that he was residing in Astrakhan. Here negotiations were renewed for the purchase of the diamond, which he was at last induced to part with, apparently on the original terms. Murray, speaking of the "Orloff," says that "a Greek merchant, named Gregory Suffrass offered it for sale in Amsterdam in 1766, from whom Prince Orloff bought it for Catherine of Russia for £90,000, an annuity of £4,000, and a patent of nobility, as he himself informed Mr. Magellan." He then quotes the authority of Dutens for this statement, which, he adds, "Seems to be a genuine account."

But Dutens makes no mention of Suffrass or Shaffrass, and merely says that the Jew, who bought the "Orloff" from a ship captain, "a few years afterwards disposed of it more advantageously to a Greek merchant."*

To the introduction of the name of Shaffrass into this passage may be traced all the confusion, that has since arisen in regard to the history of the "Orloff" and "Moon of the Mountains." By removing this name the accounts of each become perfectly clear and intelligible. The "Orloff" comes directly from the Seringham temple, Mysore, to Europe by the sea route; the "Moon of Mountains" is brought overland, apparently from Delhi, through Persia, Bassorah, Bagdad, and Constantinople. They both meet for a moment in Amsterdam, the great diamond mart of the West, where the "Orloff" is purchased by Prince Orloff for Catherine from a *Greek* merchant, and whence Shaffrass takes the "Moon of Mountains," first to St. Petersburg, and then to Astrakhan. Here he ultimately disposes of it, also to the Russian Crown, as above stated.

It may be added that after his flight from Badgad, the crimes of Shaffrass came to light. Being thus prevented from returning to his native land, he settled in Astrakhan, where he married, and had seven daughters. But Nemesis overtook him at last; for he was poisoned by one of his own sons-in-law, under circumstances not unlike those by which he had himself sacrificed his two brothers.

* "Il donna le diamant pour 50,000 livres, à un capitaine de vaisseau, qui le vendit trois cent mille livres à un juif, lequel s'en défit plus avantageusement ensuite à un négociant grec quelques années après," Op.'cit., p. 37.

Another version of the story is given by Barbot, who states that the "Moon of Mountains" fell into the hands of an Afghan chief, who sold it to an Armenian named Shaffrass, a merchant in Bassorah, for 50,000 piastres. Shaffrass kept it for twelve years, and then sent one of his brothers to Amsterdam to treat for its sale, either with England or Russia. After some protracted negotiations the latter Power acquired it for 450,000 silver roubles, and a patent of nobility to the seller ; for thus are titles obtained in Russia."

This reads like an *editio expurgata* of the more romantic and popular account. But it has its value, in so far as it associates the "Moon of Mountains" with Shaffrass, and thus helps to distinguished this stone from the "Orloff," with which that dealer was in no way connected.

But Barbot's story is itself merely a re-hash of the account given by P. S. Pallas in his *Travels through the Southern Provinces of the Russian Empire*, in 1793-4. Although involving some repetition, it will be best to give the text of Pallas in full, as it is constantly referred to by writers who have never consulted the original, and who have consequently superadded fresh errors to those for which Pallas is responsible. At p. 276 of the first* volume of the English edition (London, 1812) Pallas writes :—

"During my residence in Astrakhan I became acquainted with the heirs of the late Grigori Safarov Shaffrass, the Armenian, who sold the celebrated large diamond, which is now set in the Imperial sceptre of

* Not *second* volume, as is generally stated.

Russia. The history of this diamond, which holds so distinguished a place among those of the very first water, may probably afford entertainment to my readers, as I shall thereby refute many false reports which have been circulated on this subject. Shah Nadir had in his throne two principal Indian diamonds, one of which was called the 'Sun of the Sea,' and the other the 'Moon of the Mountains.' At the time of his assassination many precious ornaments belonging to the crown were pillaged, and afterwards secretly disposed of by the soldiers who shared the plunder. Shaffrass, commonly known at Astrakhan by the name of Millionshik, or the Man of Millions, then resided at Bassorah, with two of his brothers. One day a chief of the Avganians (Afghans) applied to him, and secretly proposed to sell, for a very moderate sum, the before-mentioned diamond, which probably was that called the 'Moon of the Mountains,' together with a very large emerald, a ruby of considerable size, and other precious stones of less value. Shaffrass was astonished at the offer, and pretending that he had not a sufficient sum to purchase these jewels, he demanded time to consult with his brothers on the subject. The vendor, probably from suspicious motives, did not again make his appearance. Shaffrass, with the approbation of his brothers, immediately went in search of the stranger with the jewels, but he had left Bassorah. The Armenian, however, met him accidentally at Bagdad, and concluded the bargain by paying him 50,000 piastres for all the jewels in his possession. Shaffrass and his brothers being conscious that it was necessary to observe the most profound

secrecy respecting this purchase, resolved, on account of their commercial connections, to remain at Bassorah. After a lapse of twelve years, Gregori Shaffrass, with the consent of his brothers, set off with the largest of the jewels, which had till then been concealed. He directed his route through Sham (Damascus), and Constantinople, and afterwards by land through Hungary and Silesia to the city of Amsterdam, where he publicly offered his jewels for sale.

“The English Government is said to have been among the bidders. The Court of Russia sent for the large diamond, with a proposal to reimburse all reasonable expenses, if the price could not be agreed upon. When the diamond arrived, the Russian Minister, Count Panin, made the following offer to Shaffrass, whose negociator, M. Lasaref was then jeweller to the Court. Besides the patent to hereditary nobility, demanded by the vendor, he was to receive an annual pension of 6,000 roubles during life, 500,000 roubles in cash, one-fifth part of which was to be payable on demand, and the remainder in the space of ten years, by regular instalments. The capricious Shaffrass likewise claimed the honour of nobility for his brothers, and various other annuities or advantages, and persisted so obstinately in his demands, that the negotiation was frustrated, and the diamond returned.

“Shaffrass was now in great perplexity. He had involved himself in expenses, was obliged to pay interest for considerable sums he had borrowed, and there was no prospect of selling the jewel to advantage. His negociators left him in that perplexity

in order to profit by his mismanagement. To elude his creditors, he was obliged to abscond to Astrakhan. At length the negotiations with Russia were re-commenced by Count Gregory Grigorievitch Orloff, who was afterwards created a Prince of the Empire, and the diamond was purchased for 450,000 roubles, ready money, together with the grant of Russian nobility. Of that sum it is said, 120,000 roubles fell to the share of the negociators for commission, interest, and similar expenses. Shaffrass settled at Astrakhan, and his riches, which by inheritance devolved to his daughters, had, by the extravagance of his sons-in-law, been in a great measure dissipated."

It is obvious that Pallas received this version of the story from "the heirs" of Shaffrass, whom he met in Astrakhan, and who were naturally interested in suppressing the series of crimes, by which the Armenian merchant got possession of the diamond. It is also obvious that Pallas has wrongly transferred the whole story from the "Moon of Mountains" to the "Orloff." According to his own showing, the sale to the Russian Government was effected after Shaffrass had been "obliged to abscond to Astrakhan," that is, some years after his arrival in Amsterdam. But we have the already quoted contemporary testimony of the *Museum Britannicum*, to the effect that the diamond associated with the name of Prince Orloff, and now set in the Imperial sceptre of Russia, was purchased by Orloff, not in *Astrakhan* from Shaffrass, but in *Amsterdam*, from a Persian merchant in the year 1776. Pallas is, no doubt, quite right in supposing that the

stone disposed of in Astrakhan came through the Afghan chief and Nadir Shah from the Delhi treasury. But it is equally evident that the stone purchased in Amsterdam, came from Mysore to Europe by the sea route. We are thus again driven to the same conclusion, that the Shaffrass story belongs to Nadir's diamond, the "Moon of Mountains," and the French deserter's to the Seringham gem, now in the Imperial sceptre.

XXIII

PATROCINHO.

One of Brazil's Largest Diamonds—"Picked up" in 1851—
The Thieves of Minas-Geraes—A Gem without a
a Pedigree.



THIS is one of the very largest stones ever found in Brazil. It was picked up in 1851, near the source of the Rio Patrocinho, a small stream watering the district in the centre of the province of Minas Geraes, which is the most elevated portion of the Brazilian table-land. It lies along the upper course of the Rio de San Francisco. Nearly every kind of metal has been found, at one time or another, in this province. It is particularly rich in iron, gold, and diamonds. The latter have been chiefly discovered in the Tequetinhonha and Abaíté, instances of which have already been mentioned. A large portion of the country washed by these rivers is still held by Indian tribes, though some districts are well settled by Europeans. Cidade Diamantina, formerly Tejaco the capital of the diamond district, is situated on an acclivity of a mountain, 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. These diamantiferous regions have produced many splendid stones, but none about which less is known than the "Patrocinho," our efforts to unearth it having so far proved singularly futile.

XXIV

THE ENGLISH DRESDEN.

A Faultless Stone—Remarkable Success of Cutting—A Fortune made in Cotton and spent on a Diamond—Crafty Agents—Singular Coincidence of Ill-Luck—A Ruined Merchant and a Deposed Prince.



THROUGH the courtesey of Mr. E. Dresden, from whom it takes its name, we are enabled for the first time to give the true history of this most remarkable gem. Many of the subjoined particulars are contained in a letter, dated June 14th, 1881, which Mr. Dresden kindly forwarded to us in reply to an application for an authentic account of a diamond, concerning which so many false reports are still current. This notable stone was found about the year 1857, in the Bagagem district, Brazil, the same place which also yielded the "Star of the South," and which has been identified in our description of that gem. Soon after its discovery, the "English Dresden" was brought to Rio de Janeiro, where the owner's agents bought and forwarded it to him in London, in the same year, 1857. A model was then taken of the rough stone, which weighed $119\frac{1}{2}$ carats, although evidently forming a part only of the original crystal. What became of the corresponding portion has remained a profound secret, though, as Mr. Dresden suggests, it may have either been destroyed in detaching it from the rock, or else may possibly have remained behind in its original itacolumite matrix.

However this may be, the owner submitted the fractured crystal to "a marvellously clever polisher," in Amsterdam, who converted it into a very fine drop-shape diamond. In the process of cutting it lost exactly 43 carats, and now consequently, weighs only $76\frac{1}{2}$ carats. But, as Mr. Dresden well remarks, experts alone can fully appreciate the extraordinary skill of a workman "who produced such a well-proportioned drop out of half a rough diamond, and with such little loss in weight—not even one-third."

The result was an absolutely faultless gem, if at least there be anything in this world which can be pronounced quite free from blemish. No imperfections of any sort have ever been detected in this unrivalled brilliant, so that Mr. Dresden does not hesitate to assert that "there is no diamond known in the world to come up to it." Such, indeed, is its astonishing purity and lustre that the writer adds: "I matched my drop with the 'Koh-i-Nûr' at Garrard's one day, and to the surprise of all present, the latter's colour turned yellowish, a proof how perfectly *white* my diamond must be." A competent judge, also wrote at the time: "It is perfectly pure, free from defects, and has extraordinary play and brilliancy. Indeed the quality of the stone is superior to the 'Koh-i-Nûr.' Yet when half a share in this magnificent jewel was offered to a noted West-end jeweller for the relatively small sum of £12,000, he declined it."

This refusal probably led to the further migrations of the stone, which ultimately found its way to the "Far East" under somewhat remarkable circumstances. After having been offered to nearly all the

crowned princes of Europe, and successively declined by them, it was seen and greatly admired by an Indian rajah, who is said to have visited London in 1863, chiefly for the purpose of adding this diamond to his collection. But the price, fixed at that time at £40,000, was more than he could afford, and he was reluctantly compelled to decline the purchase.

The rajah was accompanied on this occasion by an English merchant from Bombay, who, dazzled by the lustre of this peerless gem, expressed a great desire to possess it. "I should like to buy this diamond myself," he remarked, "but have not the means to do so at present. Whenever I am rich enough I shall certainly not fail to secure it." No attention was paid at the time to these words, which, however, were afterwards remembered, when the speaker found himself unexpectedly in a position to prove their sincerity. Within a year of his desire to possess the English "Dresden," the great war of Secession broke out in the United States, which led to an almost fabulous rise in the price of cotton, of which commodity the Bombay merchant happened to be a large holder. By selling off his stock at enormous profits he suddenly found himself in possession of ample means to gratify "the dearest wish of his heart." He at once wrote to Mr. Dresden, and his letter was followed by a special agent commissioned to effect the purchase. In executing the task entrusted to him this agent contrived to do a stroke of business of which neither Mr. Dresden nor the purchaser was aware at the time. Making a show of extreme caution, he betrayed an apparently praiseworthy zeal in the interest

of his employer. His first objection was to the stone itself. "I am no expert," he remarked. "How can I be certain that it is a genuine diamond?" The seller thereupon had it submitted to a competent and disinterested judge; and when his verdict had been obtained, the agent thought the price (£40,000) rather high, adding: "I have not full instructions, and do not think he would give so much. However, I do not mind taking the responsibility on myself of offering you £32,000. In fact, as it is evidently a very fine stone, I am prepared to do this on my own account, and if my employer does not ratify the transaction, you may still regard it as a bargain, for in that case I will keep the stone for myself." The expert, to whom it had been submitted, persuaded Mr. Dresden to accept this offer, and on receipt of £32,000 from a person probably not worth as many shillings, the diamond passed into the "middleman's" hands. By him it was conveyed to Bombay, and handed over to the English merchant, who was given to understand that no abatement had been made, and that consequently his £40,000 had been sunk in the purchase. The agent, and it is said one other, had thus a round sum of £8,000 to divide between them, an arrangement which, however, would not have "held water" in a court of law.

The usual ill-luck, apparently inseparable from the possession of all these great diamonds, now overtook the Bombay trader.* Continuing to do business

* It is merely in the way of "coincidence" that we refer once more to the ill-luck which seems invariably to have accompanied the possession of extraordinary large diamonds, and to instance the ruin which fell on

in cotton, he found himself again a large holder, when "Secession," and with it the price of cotton, suddenly collapsed. This, with the withdrawal of the £40,000 not only involved his affairs in pecuniary embarrassment, but threw him on a bed of sickness, from which he soon sank into the grave. His estate had now to be wound up, and the executors considered themselves fortunate in being able to recover the £40,000 by disposing of the already famous "Dresden Drop" to the late notorious Gaikwar of Baroda, in whose family it still remains.†

the procurer of this diamond for the Indian Prince, as well as the merchant buyer of the gem. Though the latter became a ruined merchant, and the former a wholly deposed potentate, we need hardly point out that in both instances it was the qualities which dominated the character of each, and not the stone, which ensured the ruin of the men in question. *Aulus Gellius* in his *Noctes Atticæ*, tells us that when the Romans seized upon the treasure found in the Temple of Toulouse, in Languedoc, a series of fatal misfortunes overtook the perpetrators of what was deemed their sacrilege, and that thenceforward the *Aurum Tholosanum* (the gold of Toulouse), became a proverbial expression for treasure which brought ruin upon its possessors.

† "Our telegraphic intelligence of this morning contains an account of the investment of the youthful Gaikwar with full powers of administration, and the return of the State of Baroda to native rule, which were consummated on Wednesday after an imposing ceremony. More than six years have elapsed since the Indian Government, on the deposal of Mulhar Rao, assumed the functions of government in Baroda during the minority of the young Prince chosen as his most suitable successor; and now the position of affairs is about to revert to what it was before Mulhar Rao fell into evil ways, and paid the penalty of his crimes. The question of our recent relations with the reigning family and people of Baroda, has therefore, reached a terminal point, and presents itself for consideration, and description as a complete episode in modern Anglo-Indian history. The young Prince, to whose care the happiness and prosperity of two millions of people are now entrusted, was born in 1863, and is named the Maharajah Sivaji Rao. He is the direct descendant, through a younger son, of Pilaji Rao, the founder of the House. Khandi Rao left no heir, and the posthumous child of his wife, the Princess Jamna Bai, proving a daughter, his younger brother, Mulhar Rao, was allowed to assume and retain the rank of ruler. The antecedents of this Prince were not of a character to inspire much confidence in his capacity to direct the affairs of the State with happy results, and the event soon proved that the worst anticipations were justified. He was called upon in 1874 to institute certain necessary reforms, and a definite

It is not a little remarkable that two of the finest diamonds in the world, the "Star of the South" and the "English Dresden," should have had a closely parallel career. Both were found nearly about the same time, in the same district of Bagagem; bought in the same city of Rio de Janeiro; treated in the same place (Coster's Atelier, Amsterdam), forwarded through the same agency, (Mr. Dresden of London,) to the same country, India; and there ultimately purchased by the same person, the Gaikwar of Baroda.

period was given him, within which they were to be carried out. The progress of the threatened complication was precipitated by the attempt to poison the Resident, Colonel Phayre, and by the implication of the Gaikwar himself in the crime. Mulhar Rao was then suspended from his post, and the circumstances were investigated before a mixed commission. But the members, three of whom were English and the other three natives, were unable to agree in their decision, and the Supreme Government thereupon thought itself bound to intervene, and decree the removal of Mulhar Rao for his "notorious misconduct" and "gross misgovernment." The difficulty then became to find a suitable successor for him, and, after as brief a deliberation as possible, the Princess Jamna Bai was allowed, in May, 1875, to adopt as her son the young Prince who had just been invested by Sir James Fergusson, with the sovereignty of his ancestors' dominions. During his minority the State has been governed under the control of British officials but great assistance has also been given by the experienced and talented native minister, Madhava Rao, who established his reputation as a skilful administrator many years ago in Travancore. As a consequence of these last six and a half years of enlightened government, Baroda has recovered all, and more than all, its old prosperity. The new Gaikwar has but to continue in the course marked out by our former ally, Gaikwar Khandi Rao, and to avoid the errors of his predecessor, Mulhar Rao. He will thus be able to maintain the prosperity of his people at its present high point, and to preserve with the paramount Power those relations of friendship and confidence which have so long characterized the intercourse of the Gaikwar and the Indian Government."—*The Times*, January 2nd, 1882.

XXV.

THE AKBAR SHAH, OR JEHAN GHIR SHAH.

Lost and Found—Known in Turkey as the “Shepherd’s Stone”—Sold to the late Gaikwar of Baroda—Another Disappearance—Royal Egotism.



IN every respect a very remarkable stone, the “Akbar Shah” entirely disappeared about the close of the seventeenth century, but it has again recently come to light. Thanks to information courteously communicated to us by Messrs George Blogg & Co., of London, we are enabled to trace its history back to the famous Mogul Emperor Akbar Shah, apparently its first owner. It remained in the Mogul’s treasury till the time of Shah Jehan, by whom it was beautifully engraved in Arabic characters on both sides. After its long disappearance it suddenly came to light again a few years ago in Turkey, where it was known by the name of the “Shepherd’s Stone.” But the two inscriptions left no doubt as to its true origin. Mr. George Blogg, who purchased it at Constantinople in February, 1866, was told at the time that, according to the tradition, it formed one of the eyes of the Peacock Throne, destroyed by Nadir Shah. By him it was brought to London, where it was re-cut to a drop, as

the most advantageous form, by the late Mr. L. M. Auerhaan. It was then sold by Messrs. Blogg, to the notorious Gaikwar of Baroda, in 1867, for $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of rupees (£35,000), and now lies hidden away with the other treasures accumulated by that prince during his oppressive reign.

The stone weighed originally 120 Arabic, or 116 English, carats. But in the hands of the cutter it was reduced to about 71 or 72 carats, and during the process the two inscriptions were totally destroyed. Facsimile copies, however, were first taken, and are here appended, with the English translations:—

Shah Akbar,
The Shah of the World,
1028 A.H.

To the Lord of Two Worlds,
1039, A.H.
Shah Jehan.

Facsimile of the first inscription in Shah Akbar's script. The text is arranged in three lines: the top line contains the date '1028', the middle line contains the title 'Shah of the World', and the bottom line contains the name 'Shah Akbar'.

Facsimile of the second inscription in Shah Jehan's script. The text is arranged in three lines: the top line contains the date '1039', the middle line contains the title 'Lord of Two Worlds', and the bottom line contains the name 'Shah Jehan'.

The date on No. 1, 1028 A.H., corresponds to 1650, A.D. But Akbar, who succeeded Humayûn in 1556, died in 1605. Hence the inscription could not have been engraved by Akbar himself. The date obviously indicates the year when Shah Jehan caused it to be made, whilst the terms of the inscription record the fact that the stone had belonged to Akbar. The second inscription was evidently added eleven years later on, also by Shah Jehan, the then owner, who reigned from 1627 to 1666, his reign thus covering both dates.

THE TAVERNIER BLUE.

A Precious Colour in Diamonds—"D'un Beau Violet"—
Famous Mines in History and Tradition—Misfortune
follows Tavernier—The Old Idea of Great Diamonds
being Unlucky—One Stone with a Treble History.



HIS stone is described as "D'un beau violet," and at once attracts the attention of every connoisseur. There are diamonds of a sapphire hue, and one of a ruby red, which are of high value ; there are also green, white olive, black, yellow, and fire-coloured ; but the red and blue are the rarest of all natural productions. An affluent of the Coleroon somewhat north of the Pâlqhât Pass in the South-Western Ghauts is said to be the locality where this unique specimen was found.

It must strike students as very wonderful that the places in which great diamonds were said to be discovered are not the extensive mines at the base of the Neela-Mulla mountains, in the vicinity of the Krishna and Pomar₄ rivers, where a hundred thousand miners, labourers, and merchants dwelt in the time of Methold ; nor the mines of Golconda, described by Jean Baptiste Tavernier ; nor those of Raulconda ; nor the Gani or Coloor, seven days journey from the same capital, where, in Tavernier's time, sixty thousand labourers were at work, and where, we are

told, a poor Vaisya preparing a piece of ground to sow some millet, struck his hoe on a stone, which to his surprise and the dealers, too, turned out to be a diamond weighing twenty-five carats. It was from this thin soil that a stone of forty carats was found, which was presented to Shah Jehan by the Persian general Emir Jemla. But the stones found here were tinged with green, yellow, or red. Tavernier speaks of a diamond the weight of which was 793 carats, which was given by the Emir Jemla to the emperor. Sumelpoor on the South-Western frontier of Bengal, and near the source of the river Quel, was also visited by Tavernier, and the South-West of Allahabad on the Ganges, a stronghold of the Prasians, was also the locality of the most ancient diamond mines.

Vast as were and are these diamond fields, comparatively few remarkable stones are declared to have been discovered there, and for obvious reasons. The feudal lord of the soil made conditions with the employer of labour, similar to those existing between the rich merchant jeweller Marcandar, and the King of Golconda, who stipulated that the merchant should pay yearly to the king 30,000 pagodas of 8s. 6d. each for working the mine, and reserve for the king's special right all stones found, which exceeded in weight two carats. This, no doubt, accounts for so few large diamonds coming to light. The merchant's temptation to have large stones broken up was very great.

The experience of smuggling in all ages, and in every country, confirms the report that this restriction only stimulated the secreting and disposal of the

commodity so reserved. It was indeed a tremendous premium on the concealment of the place where these exceptional stones were found ; and as the inventive faculty of Easterns is of luxurious growth, it may well be believed that the extraordinary incidents which were related about the discovery of wonderful stones, would be as wonderful, and far more plentiful than the diamonds themselves.

Tavernier, on his last return from the East, sold twenty-five large diamonds to Louis le Grand Monarque, 1668. But this violet blue stood at the head of the list. From 1391 to the end of the eighteenth century diamonds were passionately sought for both by men and women in most Courts of Europe to adorn their persons, and their grand reception rooms. The sums of money given to Tavernier by Louis XIV. for this Blue diamond and the other stones purchased by the Grand Monarque, so enriched the merchant, that he purchased a great estate, to which he retired to spend in peace his remaining years with his loved and trusted son. His sovereign, besides enriching Tavernier with above £100,000, added the honour of nobility. Alas ! The ill-luck which was said to pursue the merchants in these gems from India seems to have attached itself to this famous traveller. The son involved his aged father in such unfortunate speculations, that he was compelled to sell his estate to pay his debts, and at the age of eighty-four to venture out once more to the East. On his journey he was attacked by fever and perished. It is very noteworthy that Emir Jemla died, after the miscarriage of his son, in a similar manner. That this blue diamond

was cut after coming into the possession of the French king, and reduced to $67\frac{1}{8}$ carats is most probable. It appears that by cleavage subsequently the diamond was reduced to $44\frac{1}{4}$ carats, and after this treatment it came into the possession of the late Mr. Henry Thomas Hope, and stands unrivalled.

The disappearance of Tavernier's rough blue from the French regalia, followed by the unexplained appearance of a cut gem of precisely the same delicate blue tint, and answering in size to the original after due allowance made for loss in cutting, leaves little or no room for doubting the identity of the two stones. Hence the theory set forth in *Precious Stones and Gems* remains unchallenged ; nor is it likely to be seriously called in question by any future experts. It will be further demonstrated in our account of the "Hope" diamond. We have also succeeded, by a careful process of analysis, in identifying this stone with the French "Blue." It thus appears that the rough uncut Tavernier, the French "Blue," lost in 1792, and the "Hope," are one and the same stone.

XXVII.

THE TENNANT.

Another South African Gem—"Off Colour," but free from Flaw or Speck—Offered for Sale by Auction.



SHORTLY before his lamented death, the distinguished mineralogist, Mr. James Tennant, of London, became possessed of this gem. From the brief account published by him in November, 1880, and illustrated with four engravings, we gather that the rough diamond was brought to him from the South African diamond fields by one of his students. In the original state it weighed 112 carats, but it has since been cut in London as a brilliant, losing 46 carats only in the process. Hence its present weight is 66 carats. Like most African stones it has a yellow tinge, and, as the printed account says, "it exceeds in size and brilliancy any diamond in the British crown." It was recently put up to auction at the rooms of Messrs. Christie, by Professor Tennant's executors, with a reserve, but was not sold. We have named it the "Tennant" in recognition of the remarkable talents of this great mineralogist.

In the paper already referred to, mention is made of some other South African diamonds in the same collection, one of which is stated to weigh 56 carats. But it is apparently of inferior quality to the "Tennant," which, although of a yellow hue, is free from flaws or specks.

XXVIII.

THE STAR OF DIAMONDS.

A Brilliant Gem—"All the Colours of the Rainbow."



SEEING how recently the active working for diamonds in South Africa was commenced, it is not a little surprising that we are unable to present the reader with the history of one of the most precious stones known to experts by the somewhat arrogant title of "the Star of Diamonds." It is mentioned by Dieulafait as one of the largest and finest discovered in the South African diamond fields. "A lovely stone, which attracted attention by revealing under the microscope a prospect of pointed mountain crests, lit up by vivid sunlight in all the colours of the rainbow." It weighed in the rough state $107\frac{1}{2}$ carats.

XXIX.

THE RIO DAS VELHAS

A Treasure of Brazil—Found in the famous Diamond Province of Minas-Geraes.



ALMOST as little is known of this gem as of the "Star of Diamonds." It was found about the year 1852, in the Rio-das-Velhas (Guaicuti), a large river flowing from the Paraupeba Mountains, through the province of Minas-Geraes, Brazil, northwards to the right bank of the San Francisco. In the absence of any further information it is interesting to identify the locality of the river which gives the gem its title. The upper branches of the San Francisco rise on the north of the Serra-das-Vertentes, 3,000 feet above the sea. They are principally the Paraupeba, and that more properly called the S. Francisco, which unite after a course of above 150 miles in $19^{\circ} 20'$ S. lat. The river then flows in a northerly direction to its junction with the Rio-das-Velhas. Before this, however, it forms the cataracts of Pirapora. The Rio-das-Velhas rises in the neighbourhood of Villa Rica on the northern declivities of the Serra Mantiqueira, and runs upwards of 250 miles.

It is not unlikely that the stone under notice may have travelled down the San Francisco to the point where it was eventually found. We hope at a future day to trace its wanderings since those pre-adamite days when nature first set it adrift in the "troubled waters."

XXX.

THE BAZU.

A Product of the Kollur Mine—Cleavage and Flaws—A Risky and Unprofitable Speculation.



BEFORE the cleavage this stone, which Tavernier procured in the Kollur mine, weighed 104 carats. Although of fine water, it seemed to be so foul in the middle, that, being of large size and held at a high price, none of the Banians (native traders) would venture to purchase it. At last a Dutchman named Bazu was bold enough to do so, and having had it cleaved there was found in the interior as much as eight carats weight of impurities, which had the appearance of decayed vegetable matter.* The smaller portion remained pure with the exception of a few almost imperceptible blemishes. But as to the other portion, the flaws passed right through it, and it had to be divided into seven or eight pieces. Bazu ran a great risk in having this stone cleaved. The operation might have broken it into a hundred pieces. Even as it was he made a bad bargain, which shows plainly enough that “where the Banians refuse to bite, there is not much hope for the Franks.”

* A diamond of similar character is now in the British Museum.

XXXI.

THE RAULCONDA.

Cutters at Work in a Mine—A Notable Operation



HIS stone takes its name from the mine where it was discovered. There is nothing sufficiently salient in its history to suggest a more appropriate title. Tavernier mentions the stone in his account of the Raulconda mine, where he saw it in the process of being cut. "In this mine," he says, "there are a number of cutters, each of whom has only one wheel, which is of steel, and about the size of an ordinary dinner plate. They place one stone only on each wheel, which they moisten incessantly with water until they have found the grain of the stone. Then they take oil, and do not spare the diamond dust, which is very cheap, to make the stone run the quicker, and they also charge it much more than we do. I have seen 150 lbs. of lead placed on one stone, though it was certainly a very large one, which remained at 103 carats after having been cut, and the mill was like ours, the large wheel of which was turned by four blacks." The site of Raulconda mine will be found identified in our introductory chapter.

XXXII.

THE HASTINGS.

In the Early Days of our Eastern Empire—National Ingratitude—A Georgian Scandal—Cruel Caricature—The Power of Diamonds.



IN the year 1786 the “Hastings” diamond, (which cannot now be identified in the crown jewels), was sent by the Nizam of the Deccan to King George III., whose favour Mr. Hastings was about that time anxious to secure. He was on his trial for having endowed the nation with an eastern empire. Commissioned to deliver the jewel to the king, this circumstance brought both himself and the royal family into great trouble. The report was soon spread that in order to prevent an adverse sentence, Hastings had bribed the king with a valuable diamond, and as Queen Charlotte had the reputation of being very avaricious, it was added that her mediation had also been purchased by similar means. This gave rise to numerous scurrilous writings and caricatures, which were publicly hawked about the streets and exhibited in the shop windows. In one of these advantage was taken of a notorious mountebank, who professed that he could eat and digest stones like an ostrich, and whose performances were advertised on posters under the heading of “The Great Stone Eater.” For the juggler the caricaturists substituted the king, who was represented as “The Greatest Stone Eater.” He was depicted with a diamond in his mouth, and a heap of

others ready for mastication. Amongst the numerous street ballads that appeared on the occasion was the following, reprinted with some slight but necessary modifications by Thomas Wright in his *Caricature History of the Georges* :—

I'll sing you a song of a diamond so fine,
That soon in the Crown of our Monarch will shine ;
Of its size and its value the whole country rings,
By Hastings bestowed on the best of all kings.

Derry down, &c.

From India this jewel was lately brought o'er,
Though sunk in the sea, it was found on the shore,
And just in the nick to St James's it got,
Conveyed in a bag by the brave Major Scott, *

Derry down, &c.

Lord Sydney† stepped forth when the tidings were known,
It's his office to carry such news to the throne,
Though quite out of breath to the closet he ran,
And stammered with joy, 'ere his tale he began.

Derry down, &c.

Here's a jewel, my liege, there's none such in the land,
Major Scott with three bows, put it into my hand,
And he swore, when he gave it, the wise ones were bit,
For it never was shown to Dundas or to Pitt.

Derry down, &c.

* This Major Scott was a personal friend and prominent champion of Warren Hastings, and when the diamond scandal was referred to in the House of Commons, he it was who supplied the necessary information, and gave the true history of the affair. But his explanation was received with incredulity by the hostile faction.

† The diamond, together with a rich purse, containing the Nizam's letter was openly presented to the king by Lord Sydney at a levée in St. James's Palace. But Hastings happened, unfortunately for himself, to be present on the occasion, this circumstance, of course, lending colour to the report that the diamond really came from him, the Nizam's name being merely used as a cloak to veil the true nature of the transaction.

“For Dundas,” cried our Sovereign, “unpolished and rough
Give him a Scotch pebble—’tis more than enough—
And jewels to Pitt, Hastings justly refuses,
For he has already more gifts than he uses.”

Derry down, &c.

“But run, Jenky, run!” adds the king in delight,
“Bring the queen and the princesses here for a sight;
They never would pardon the negligence shown,
If we kept from their knowledge so glorious a stone.”

Derry down, &c.

“But guard the door, Jenky! No credit we’ll win
If the prince, in a frolic, should chance to step in;
The boy to such secrets of State we’ll ne’er call,
Let him wait till he gets our crown, jewels, and all!”

Derry down, &c.

In the princesses run, and surprised, cry “O, la!
’Tis as big as the egg of a pigeon, papa!”
“And a pigeon of plumage worth plucking is he,”
Replies our good monarch, “who sent it to me!”

Derry down, &c.

Madam Schwellenberg peep’d thro’ the door at a chink,
And tipped on the diamond a sly German wink,
As much as to say, “Can we ever be cruel
To him who has sent us so glorious a jewel?”

Derry down, &c.

Now God save the queen! while the people I teach,
How the king may grow rich, while the Commons impeach,
Then let nabobs go plunder, and rob as they will,
And throw in their diamonds as grist to his mill.

Derry down, &c.

This is no doubt the stone of which Mawe wrote:
“A fine stone, weighing 101 carats, called the ‘Nizam’
diamond, was brought from India by governor
Hastings; it made a most perfect brilliant, and
was presented to our late gracious queen Charlotte.”

In this sentence we have a characteristic instance of the extreme carelessness displayed by most writers on precious stones. For, short as it is, it contains no less than three mistakes, all of which might have been avoided by a little attention to the facts of the case. In the first place the stone was never "called the 'Nizam' diamond." Secondly, it was not "brought from India by governor Hastings," but sent from India by the Nizam to governor Hastings. Lastly, it was not "presented to our late gracious Queen Charlotte," but to King George III. by Hastings at the request of the Nizam. It is, however, likely enough that it afterwards passed into Queen Charlotte's possession, although of this there can be no certainty. It is also quite possible that, for his own purposes, Hastings may have made the most of the part played by him in the transaction. He was fully aware that his enemies were both numerous and powerful, and great efforts were needed to command sufficient influence to obtain a favourable verdict. One of the means which he freely employed to secure this object was a lavish distribution of his funds amongst influential members of society. Hence he was not particularly interested at the time in refuting the popular impression, that the great diamond was his personal gift to royalty. A certain amount of interest could not fail to be felt in the fate of a man who could afford to solicit the favour of his sovereign by such princely means. Society at the time was not immaculate, and in any case it was as true then as ever that "every woman had her price," and that when all else failed, diamonds ever commanded success. If

he did not possess an unlimited store of these treasures, the impression that there were more where this gift to the king came from, might equally well serve his purpose.

XXXIII.

THE STAR OF BEAUFORT.

The comparatively Unknown Diamond Fields of South Africa—The Progress and Wealth of Griqualand West—One of many Great Diamonds.



R. R. W. MURRAY, in a paper read before the Society of Arts a year ago, held that while the Diamonds Fields of South Africa are the least known of English territory, and have been most misrepresented, no single spot of ground in the whole world, is better worth knowing than they are. We quite agree with him in believing that no discovery of modern times is more remarkable than that of the Diamond Fields of South Africa, no portion of her Majesty's dominions has made such rapid progress in civilization and wealth ; and that unless the progress of the province of Griqualand West, in which the Diamond Fields are situated, is checked by misgovernment, it will be one of the chief centres of trade, and commerce in that great country.

What is almost as remarkable as the general ignorance in regard to South Africa, is the way in which some of the diamonds discovered there become absorbed, and leave comparatively no trace of their history or their whereabouts. Take, for example the "Star of Beaufort." All that appears to be known

concerning it is that, speaking of the unusual number of large stones found in the South African diamantiferous regions, Dieulafait observes that, "among the exceptional treasures were diamonds weighing considerably more than 100 carats, one of which was the beautiful 'Star of Beaufort.' Our inquiries do not at present enable us to add anything to this vague mention of a very valuable stone.

XXXIV.

THE CHAPADA.

Peculiarities of Brazilian Stones—A Diamond-Bearing Rock
—A Notable Gem, named after the District where it
was found.



IN a recent number of the *American Journal of Science*, Mr. A. O. Derby, in a paper on the geology of the diamond, gives some interesting results of his researches. It has been generally stated that the Brazilian diamond has its matrix in itacolumite, which is a granular quartzose rock sometimes flexible. Mr. Derby, however, shows that, under the name of itacolumite rocks, two distinct geological series have hitherto been confounded. The diamond-bearing rock of Grao Mogul probably belongs to the newer of the two series; but the stones have not been formed in these rocks, and occur there only as derivative bodies like the associated pebbles. At Sao Jao de Chapada the diamond is found in a deposit of clay; and its original matrix is described as a vein of quartz accompanying a rock of unknown nature, but containing iron and crystals of tourmaline, traversing a series of schists and itacolumite. Mr. Derby is of opinion that the original diamond formation in Brazil is probably of Cambrian age. A notable diamond of $87\frac{1}{2}$ carats was found in 1851, in the rich mineral district of Chapada, or Santa-Cruz-da-Chapada, three leagues North-East of Fanado, in the province of Minas-Geraes, Brazil. It has been named after the district that produced it.

THE NASSAK.

Under the Mahratta Power—"Gifts of the gods"—A Present to the East India Company—Reminiscences of a Royal Birthday—Re-cut by Order of the Marquis of Westminster.



THE town of Nassak, variously written Nassac, Nassik, Nasik, Nessuck, &c., lies on the Upper Godavery, 95 miles by rail north-east of Bombay. In the neighbourhood are some famous cave-temples, and in the days of the Mahratta ascendancy, this town was a noted place of pilgrimage, annually resorted to by thousands of devotees. The offerings of these worshippers of Shiva, the presiding genius of the district, caused here, as elsewhere, throughout the peninsula, a gradual accumulation of vast treasures in the local shrines. While the Mahratta power flourished, these treasures were respected, but when they fell upon evil days, the Peishwas, nominal heads of the great confederacy, helped themselves freely to the "gifts of the gods," thereby acquiring the means to carry on their incessant wars against rival chiefs, and finally against the all-absorbing "Company Bahadur." When Bajerow, the last independent Peishwa, surrendered to the British in the last Mahratta war of 1818, his baggage became the "loot"

of the conquerors. Amongst the prizes of war seized on that occasion, was this diamond, which the Peishwa had already taken from the temple of Shiva, in Nassak, and which was thence known as the "Nassak" Diamond. It had been concealed by his orders, but was brought to light by Colonel J. Briggs, who forthwith handed it over to the Marquis of Hastings, under whom the combined operations against the Peishwa had been conducted. By him it was presented to the East India Company, but was ultimately given up, and formed part of the booty, being at the time valued at £30,000. It was thus brought to the London market, in the year 1818, and soon afterwards sold by the East India Company to Messrs. Rundell and Bridge. Mawe, who had the opportunity of seeing it, describes it as "a diamond of great purity, but of a bad form." He gives its weight as 79 carats and 2 grains, (the 79 being an obvious misprint for 89), and adds that "its form is triangular, and it is cut and polished, so as to retain the greatest possible weight. But it exhibits none of the qualities which it would so proudly display, if it had been well proportioned."

When it reached Europe the "Nassak," which had been badly cut in India, presented very much the form and appearance of the "Koh-i-Nûr," the native cutter having, as usual, sacrificed everything to size. Hence, when Messrs. Rundell became the owners, they found it desirable to have it re-cut, and in doing so they pursued a very wise course. By instructing the artist to keep as closely as possible to the traces of the Hindu cutter, "amending his defects, and

accommodating the pattern to the exigencies of the subject matter, they transformed the rudely-faceted, lustreless mass into a diamond of perfect brilliancy, at the sacrifice of no more than 10 per cent. of its original weight."

The thread of the history is then taken up by Murray, who tells us that "it has remained for ten years in the possession of Rundell & Bridge, and was disposed of by public sale in London in July, 1831,* for the sum of £7,200 to Emanuel Brothers. Its weight is stated to be $89\frac{3}{4}$ carats. The amount realized by the sale of the 'Nassak' diamond scarcely amounted to one-third of its previously estimated amount."

It was in the month of August, 1837, that the "Nassak" and a number of other costly gems were put up to sale, by Messrs. Emanuel in Willis's Lower Room, King Street, St. James's. The "Nassak," and the diamond earrings, presented by the Nabob of Arcot to Queen Charlotte, together with the brilliant brooch purchased by Emanuel from Bevis Marks, were knocked down to the Marquis of Westminster, who presented the earrings and brooch to the Marchioness as a birthday present.

At the Drawing Room on Queen Victoria's birthday, immediately succeeding her accession to the British throne, the Marquis of Westminster wore the "Nassak" diamond on the hilt of his sword, and, "the Marchioness intended on the same occasion

* In this year Messrs. Rundell retired from business, when the "Nassak," with much of their other goods, was brought to the hammer.

to have worn the 'Arcot' diamonds, but indisposition prevented her attendance."

We have seen that the "original weight" was $89\frac{3}{4}$ carats, and this was now reduced to $78\frac{5}{8}$ carats, a very slight sacrifice compared with the loss suffered by the "Koh-i-Nûr", and some other Indian stones when re-cut in London or Amsterdam. Kluge says the re-cutting was executed "by order of the Marquis of Westminster."* But this must be a mistake; for the operation, as already stated, was performed by Messrs. Rundell before the stone was put up to sale in July, 1837, and consequently before the Marquis had any control over it.

It gained so much in the lapidary's hands that this gem is now reputed to be worth from £25,000 to £30,000, and it must not be forgotten that the stone was sold when times were very bad and money scarce.

* "Auf Befehl des Marquis von Westminster von neuem geschliffen," *op. cit.* p. 254. Barbot also makes the same mistake, asserting (p. 269) that the operation was "exécutée par les ordres du Marquis de Westminster."

XXXVI.

THE SHAH

Engraved Diamonds—A Barbarous Subterfuge—Sadek Khan
Bricked Up in a Dungeon—An Incident of the Desert
—"A Blaze of Jewels"—Oriental Extravagance.


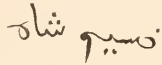
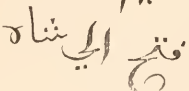


HIS fine stone shares with the "Jehan-Ghir Shah" the honour of being the only diamonds that are known to have ever been engraved in the East. And so little known are even these specimens, that they are not so much as mentioned by King in his otherwise interesting account of diamond engraving in the *Natural History of Precious Stones*.

The "Shah" seems to have formed part of the Persian regalia from the remotest times. Barbot asserts that it was lost when Nadir Shah's treasures were plundered by his revolting troops after his death in 1747. But if so, it was afterwards recovered, for according to the generally accepted account, it was presented to the Russian Emperor, Nicholas I., by the Persian Prince Cosrhoes, younger son of Abbas Mîrza, when he visited St. Petersburg in 1843.

The "Shah" is table-cut, or what is technically known as *lasque*. It is of the very finest water, without the least cloud or flaw, and so pure throughout, that in treating it, the cutter was able to leave several of the national facets untouched. This circumstance also explains the small sacrifice which it suffered in

the process of reduction. It is said to have weighed in the rough about 95 carats, and as its present weight is 86 carats, it lost 9 carats only in the cutter's hands. The three facets obtained by cleavage are beautifully engraved in Arabo-Persian characters with the names of three Persian rulers as under:—

1.  (Akbar Shah).
2.  (Nisîm Shah).
3.  (Fat'h'h Ali Shah).

Round the upper edge of the stone runs a small groove, apparently for the purpose of securing the string with which it was worn suspended round the neck. By what process this intaglio and the inscriptions were executed it is impossible to say. The probability is that all were done at the same time by some European gem-engraver employed by the Persian Court.

The third name engraved on this remarkable diamond is that of Aga Mohammed's nephew, who succeeded him in 1797. On Aga's death in that year, the usurper, Sadek Khan seized a great quantity of crown jewels. But he was defeated at Kasvîn, and he purchased his freedom by surrendering most of these treasures. The rest he retained, intending, if necessary, to use them in a similar way on some future occasion. Some time afterwards he did actually again revolt. Fat'h'h Ali's patience was now exhausted, and he not only confiscated all the remaining jewels,

amongst which was this engraved stone, but also ordered the rebel Sadek Khan to be bricked up alive in a dungeon. This method of punishment was adopted because Fat'hh Ali had, on a former occasion, promised on oath never to shed Sadek's blood.

Yet Fat'hh Ali, in spite of his inhuman punishment of Sadek, was not naturally cruel. Many instances are, indeed, related of his kindly and magnanimous disposition. On one occasion, as he was passing through the desert from Bastam to Shahrûd, it so happened that the ladies of the harem and their escort lost their way. The king, with a few attendants, immediately set out in search of them ; but they strayed so far that all the water was consumed and nothing remained except a small piece of ice, which was reserved for Fat'hh Ali. Perceiving however, that a young prince had fainted from weakness and thirst, this Oriental Sir Philip Sydney relinquished the life-giving morsel, and with his own hands placed it in the mouth of his exhausted fellow traveller.

Fat'hh Ali was on one occasion visited by Sir R. Kerr-Porter, who in his *Travels* thus describes his magnificent reception : " He entered the saloon from the left, and advanced to the foot of it with an air and step which belonged entirely to a sovereign. Had there been any assumption in his manner I could not have been so impressed. He was one blaze of jewels, which literally dazzled the sight on first looking at him. A lofty tiara of three elevations was on his head, which shape appears to have been long peculiar to the crown of the great king. It was entirely composed of thickly-set diamonds and pearls,

rubies and emeralds, so exquisitely disposed as to form a mixture of the most beautiful colours in the brilliant light reflected from its surface. Several black feathers like the heron's plumes, were intermixed with the resplendent aigrettes of this truly Imperial diadem, whose bending points were finished with pear-shaped pearls of an immense size. The vesture was of gold tissue, nearly covered with a similar disposition of jewelry, and crossing the shoulders were two strings of pearls, probably the largest in the world. I call his dress a vesture, because it set close to his person, from the neck to the bottom of the waist, showing a shape as noble as his air. At that point it devolved downwards in loose drapery, like the usual Persian garment, and was of the same costly materials with the vest. But for splendour nothing could exceed the broad bracelets round his arms, and the belt which encircled his waist. They actually blazed like fire, when the rays of the sun met them; and when we know the names derived from such excessive lustre, we cannot be surprised at seeing such an effect. The jewelled band on the right arm was called the 'Mountain of Light,' and that on the left 'the Sea of Light.' These names were of course derived from the celebrated diamonds contained in the bracelets."

It will be seen from our account of the "Daryai-Nûr" and "Moon of Mountains" that this writer is in error regarding the name of one of these famous diamonds. His description is in other respects extremely interesting, and helps to show that towards the beginning of the present century most of the

crown jewels (scattered during the troubles ensuing on the death of Nadir Shah), had again been recovered and collected in the royal treasury.

Fat'hh Ali, who retained his seat on the throne till his death in 1834, was remarkable in another respect. His harem consisted of 800 ladies, and he left issue nearly two hundred children. Mr. Binning assures us that in 1850, many of his off-spring were still alive, and earning their bread as artisans and tradesmen.

XXXVII.

THE DUDLEY, OR STAR OF SOUTH AFRICA.

A Strange History—The Vicissitudes of a Diamond—A Child's Toy worth a King's Ransom—The Discovery of Diamonds at the Cape—A Great Stone thrown away in Africa to be afterwards Sold for over £11,000 in London.



THE story of the "Star of South Africa" (now better known as the "Dudley") is the history of the beginning of diamond mining at the Cape of Good Hope. Apart from its interest in this respect it is quite a little romance of accidental discovery. Mr. B. W. Murray narrated it one evening last year to the Society of Arts. We cannot do better than reproduce the leading facts from his graphic paper which has been published in the Society's Journal:—

"In the course of that year, 1867, just as things were at the very worst, and men had come to regard the whole of South Africa as God-forsaken, Mr. John O'Reilly, a trader and hunter in the interior, was in Albania. Here I had better explain that Albania is a portion of the province of Griqualand West. It was a portion of the territory of the Griquas, who were under the chieftainship of

Nicholas Waterboer, who afterwards ceded his territory to the British authorities. That territory, which became a Crown colony, and in which are the diamond diggings and mines, is situated between the Cape Colony, the Free State, the Batlapin territory, and that which is set down in the old maps as occupied by Hottentot tribes, and in which the copper mines are found. I shall endeavour to avoid embarrassing you with more of such details than are unavoidable. The latitude and longitude are not at all essential to the subject with which I am dealing. It will be sufficient for you if I state that Griqualand West is about 600 miles from each of the sea ports, and that it is approached by various routes ; those most frequented are the western, or Table Bay route, the eastern, from Port Elizabeth, the frontier, or the East London route, and the Durban or Natal route.

“Albania, of which I commenced to speak, was a portion of the Griqua territory, settled by colonists, under terms made with Waterboer, some two years before the discovery of diamonds had been heard of. One of the colonists who had helped to form the settlement was a Mr. Van Niekirk. Mr. O'Reilly, who was returning from the interior to Colesberg, called upon Van Niekirk, and remained with him the night. In the course of the evening, one of Van Niekirk's children, a little girl, was playing on the floor with some of the pretty pebbles which are common in the neighbourhood of the Vaal River. Mr. O'Reilly's attention was directed to one of the stones, which threw out a very strong light, to which Mr. O'Reilly's eyes had been unaccustomed. He

took it up from the floor and offered to buy it, asking what Van Nickirk would take for it. The simple-minded Boer could not understand what the meaning of purchasing a stone could be, and he said he would take no money for it, but that if Mr. O'Reilly had a mind to it, he could have it.

"The colonial trader is generally represented as a verneuker of a most designing and unscrupulous kind, but there are men amongst them whose right dealing and high character would stand comparison with those of any men in the world, and no men have a better footing amongst the Boers than the old-established traders. Mr. O'Reilly is one of them. He told Van Nickirk that he believed it to be a precious stone and of value ; he would, therefore, not take it for nothing. It was ultimately agreed between them that O'Reilly should take the stone, ascertain its value, and, if found to be a diamond, as O'Reilly suspected it was, that it should be sold, and the money divided between them. Mr. O'Reilly took the stone to Colesberg, where he showed it, and he confidently stated to the people he met at the bar of the hotel that it was a diamond. He wrote his initials on the window-pane and cut a tumbler with the stone, and was laughed at for his alleged foolishness, as many a discoverer had been before him. One of the company took the stone out of O'Reilly's hands and threw it into the street. It was a narrow chance that the stone was found again, and, had it not been, it is quite a question whether the Diamond Fields of South Africa had yet or ever been discovered in our day. However, the stone was found, and O'Reilly sent it

to Grahamstown, to Dr. Atherstone, to be tested, and and the doctor and Bishop Ricards, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Grahamstown (one of the most scientific men in South Africa) both pronounced it to be a diamond of $22\frac{1}{2}$ carats. From Grahamstown the stone was sent to the then Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Richard Southey, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of Griqualand West, who submitted the stone to the best authorities at hand, and they all decided it to be a diamond. It was then forwarded to the Queen's jewellers, Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, who confirmed the decisions obtained in the colony, and valued the stone at £500. At this valuation, it was purchased by his Excellency, Sir Philip Wodehouse, who was Governor of the colony at the time. Mr. O'Reilly, as soon as he had ascertained for certain that his first stone was a diamond, set out to see if he could not find others, and was not long before he found one of $8\frac{7}{8}$ carats, and this too was purchased by Sir Philip Wodehouse for £200. This led to a good deal of excitement throughout the country. Small diamonds were brought in by natives. Then flashed the startling intelligence through the country that a diamond of over 83 carats had been discovered. This turned out to be true, and this is how it came about. Mr. Van Niekirk, from whom Mr. O'Reilly obtained the first stone, hearing that it had turned out to be a diamond, remembered that he had seen one of a similar character in the possession of a native, and set out to find it. A Boer is not long in getting hold of a native when he wants him, and Van Niekirk soon had his man. The native had

kept the stone, and Van Niekirk gave him nearly all he possessed for it—about 500 sheep, horses, &c.—but at whatever the price, he obtained the stone, and set off with it to Messrs. Lilienfield Brothers, of Hope-town, merchants of long standing in South Africa, and now represented in Hatton-garden. They purchased the stone for £11,200, and christened it the “Star of South Africa,” forwarded it to England, and it ultimately became the property of the Countess of Dudley, who purchased it of Messrs. Hunt and Roskell.”

In the process of cutting, undertaken by the purchasers, it was reduced to $46\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and assumed, in the lapidary’s hands, a triangular shape of such great brilliancy and perfectly colourless, that it is impossible to distinguished it from an Indian stone of the finest water. The present Earl of Dudley had it skilfully mounted with 95 smaller brilliants, as a head ornament, whereby full effect is given to its beautiful form and splendid lustre.

XXXVIII.

THE THRONE.

The Peacock Throne—Strange Picture of Magnificence—
An Error Corrected—The Sanguinary Adventures of
Tamerlane.



HIS stone we have so named because it formed a conspicuous feature of the magnificent throne of the Mogul emperors, the gems of which were yearly weighed, and the result carefully noted. There were altogether seven Imperial thrones covered all over, some with diamonds, others with rubies, emeralds, or pearls. But this, which Tavernier fully describes, was by far the most sumptuous, and was specially distinguished by a peacock, whose outspread tail was made of blue sapphires and other coloured gems, and whose body was of enamelled gold studded with stones, and with a large ruby in front, whence hung a pear-shaped pearl, about 50 carats in weight, or 200 grains. On either side of the peacock, and at about the same height, there stood two bouquets, the flowers of which were of enamelled gold and precious stones. Tavernier goes on to say that, "on the side of the throne facing the Court, there is an open-set jewel, *whence hangs a diamond from 80 to 90 carats in weight*, and surrounded by rubies and emeralds, and when the king is seated he has this jewel right in front of

him." Tavernier, who makes no further reference to this diamond, adds that the throne was begun by Tamerlane, and finished by Shah Jehan, and that it was valued at seventy lacs of rupees (equal to £700,000 sterling), "*qui sont cent soixante millions, 500,000 livres de nostre monnoye.*" There is every reason to doubt the accuracy of Tavernier's statement, at all events as to the commencement of the Peacock Throne. Tamerlane is probably an error for Baber or Hûmayûn, and the point raises some interesting if not melancholy, reflections.

About the year 1398, Tamerlane (known as the "Firebrand of the Universe,") crossed the Indus in his raid from Tartary to the luxurious district of Delhi, and on his course of indiscriminate plunder and slaughter, became so hampered with captives taken on his march, that he slaughtered in cold blood 100,000 of them. He ravaged Delhi, set fire to its magnificent public buildings and the dwellings of its inhabitants, and inaugurated a scene of indescribable massacre and pillage, by acts of besotted truculence. Then having secured untold wealth, and wasted more than he could take away, he returned to his Tartar capital, a monster among bandits, never more to visit the scenes of his horrible exploits. His inroad upon India was measured by a few days only. He constructed nothing but piles of unburied men, women, and children, and he wrote nothing but a legend of blood and barbarous outrage.

Very general as is the belief in the one Peacock Throne out of the seven Imperial seats, covered all over with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, or pearls, it

would be lawful to hesitate whether "the bird with out-spread tail made of sapphires and other coloured gems, and whose body was of enamelled gold, studded with stones, and with a large ruby in front, whence hung a pear-shaped pearl, weighing about 50 carats," is the actual thing, familiarly known by the French jeweller as the bird strutting about the châteaux in his native country.

XXXIX.

THE ROUGH.

Roughs of the East and West—A Text for the Educationist—
A Lost Diamond—A Reminiscence of Golconda.



STRANGE title for a diamond, is "The Rough;" a name which is associated in England with the worst form of humanity. A philosopher might find a text for a moral essay in a comparison of the innocent gem and the "rough" of the east-end of London. If it takes three generations to make a gentleman, however, the human rough as we know him in London, is far less susceptible of conversion into the polished jewel than nature's inarticulate gem, coarse and unattractive, as found in the mine. We commend this theme of contrast and comparison to the educationist. Our "Rough" in this chapter is a diamond of doubtful history.

Mawe concludes his account of "Peculiar Diamonds" with the remark that "there are in the hands of individuals brilliants of considerable magnitude, from 26 to 30 carats, and a *rough diamond* has lately been imported that weighs over 80 carats." It does not appear that this Rough specimen has been further traced. As it is impossible to say how much of its weight may have been sacrificed by the process of cutting, its weight in the rough gives no clue to its identity with any existing brilliants weighing less than 80 carats.

XL.

THE STAR OF SARAWAK.

Bornean Gems—Exploration of North Borneo—Difficulties to be overcome—Indications of Success—A Genuine Bornean Stone—The Treasures of Sarawak.



THOUGH we have seen some notable and fine diamonds hailing from the little-known and wonderful island of Borneo, we have had reason, as will already have been observed, to question the reality of the great gem, which is offered to the world as an example of Bornean treasures.

The truth is, that neither in the Dutch region of Borneo, nor in the territories of the Rajah of Sarawak, has anything like systematic exploration for gems been conducted. Hunting for precious stones is known to be of so speculative a character, that mineral explorers in Borneo have been encouraged rather to seek for coal, iron, copper, antimony, and gold, than for diamonds. There are traditions of mining for precious stones, and without doubt, in past days, many diamonds have been found, but recent investigations have shown that the quantity exported has been exaggerated, though their quality can hardly be excelled.

It is to be hoped that Borneo is entering upon a new era of exploration and prosperity. In spite of the tremendous obstacles of jungle and other difficulties, Mr. Frank Hatton, F.C.S., one of the most successful students of our Royal School of Mines, has already

made great headway in the scientific exploration of the northern regions of Borneo, under the chartered company, whose cessions in the Malay Archipelago, have recently been so much discussed. Although he only started on his interesting journey of exploration in the autumn of 1881, his investigations lead to encouraging hopes as to the mineral resources of the country, notably in the way of coal, iron, and antimony, besides a suggestion of an excellent mineral oil. It is too early as yet for the explorer to have arrived at anything like definite results. His travels belong at present as much to the history of geography as to possible mineral deposits. Adventures of river and jungle, experiences of natives who have never yet seen white men, incidents of sport, accidents of travel, variations of climate, and a hundred other matters that belong to first visits to new worlds, must naturally tend to interfere somewhat with a concentrated hunt for minerals. Nevertheless, Mr. Hatton is sending home encouraging reports, and in one of them, we venture to think, he shows that he has been within the possible pale of a diamantiferous region, though it seems to us he is more intent upon what the company would regard as the greater commercial importance of metals.* His researches are, as we have already said, attended with many

* As regards the Sarawak district of Borneo, *The New Ceylon* quotes Mr. Crocker, (a former resident under the present Rajah Brooke), who, in a paper read at the Royal Geographical Society in February, 1881, stated that the upper country of Borneo is rich in minerals, that gold is still worked by the Chinese, and diamonds by the Malays. 'This is outside the northern cession, which is practically a "Garden of the Sun," for vegetation, and with a grand range of mountains. In Sarawak, 25,000 tons of antimony was exported, from 1859 to 1879, and from 1870 to 1879, 15,000 flasks of

difficulties, not the least being that of a climate which, attractive to the tropical planter, must be very trying to the physical powers of the mineral explorer. The operations of the young scientist, are supplemented by the aid of a chemical laboratory with furnaces for the assaying of metals at Labuan, whence he has already sent home analyses of certain mineral specimens submitted to him, as well as examples of his own discoveries. Caution is evidently one of his characteristics, and travel in a tropical country is a slow business ; we must, therefore, be content to wait, but we have great hopes that the spirit of exploration once roused in Borneo, we shall soon have a real knowledge of the value of the information which has come down to us from ancient times, describing Borneo somewhat grandiloquently, it must be confessed, as an island of precious stones and treasures of gold.

To students of Bornean gems, there is a far more interesting treasure on view at a house of business in Bond Street, than the pear-shaped model of the "Rajah" diamond. This is a genuine stone. It was purchased from a Chinaman about four years ago, by the Rajah of Sarawak. Found at Landak, it weighs 70 carats, and is of the purest water. It is known as the "Star of Sarawak."

quicksilver. Mr. Hunt, referring to Sir Stamford Raffles, in 1812, speaks of Landak as producing diamonds, "when rough of a white or yellow hue ; but none are found of that inky and flinty tinge so valuable in some of the Golconda diamond."

XLI.

THE RUSSIAN TABLE.

A Russian Secret.



It is not a little remarkable that it should often be so difficult to discover the whereabouts of a great and famous diamond, the more so when we consider its financial value. The "Russian Table" is in evidence, both in works of history and travel, but that is all. Its existence is chronicled, and its size; but we know of no person, who has seen it, and as yet have not unearthed a single "biographic" incident connected with it. Possibly in future editions of the present work, our correspondents may help us. The secrets of Russian jewels are in some cases as well kept as those of Turkey. The "Table" is reported to be a fine stone, though of course its form is the least attractive style of diamond cutting. It weighs 68 carats.

XLII.

THE MASCARENHAS I. & II.

A Rich Viceroy, who was also a Toxicologist—"Hung in Effigy" and possibly poisoned as well.



THESE two stones belonged to the notorious Portuguese viceroy, Dom Philip de Mascarenha, who showed both of them to Tavernier, when that traveller was in Goa, in 1648. He thus speaks of them and of their owner.

"I will say in passing, that no viceroy of Goa ever left the country so enriched as Dom Philip de Mascarenha. He had a quantity of diamonds, all stones of great weight, from ten to forty carats. But he had especially two, which he was good enough to show me when I was in Goa, one of which, a thick stone, weighed 57 carats, and the other $67\frac{1}{2}$ carats, both of them tolerably pure, and of good water, and cut in the Indian fashion. The report ran that this viceroy was poisoned on board ship,* and it was added that his death was a just retribution for having caused so many persons to perish in the same way, especially while he was governor in

* That is, on board the vessel in which he sailed for Europe at the end of his government, and in which he died before reaching Lisbon, where he would have met with a very warm reception.

the island of Ceylon. He always kept the most subtle poison at hand, to make use of whenever he wished his vengeance to be swift. Having in this way, made many enemies, who feared for themselves the fate of his victims, he was found one morning hung in effigy in Goa, when I was there, in the year 1648."

XLIII.

THE FRENCH BLUE.

The Crown Jewels of France—Breaking up of a Great Stone
—Fragments that are Afterwards Traced.



MAWE writes : "In the Crown Jewels of France is a fine light blue diamond, which weighs $67\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and was estimated at above £100,000." This refers undoubtedly to the magnificent blue diamond which occupies the second place in the inventory of the French Crown jewels drawn up in 1791, where it is described as weighing $67\frac{2}{16}$ carats and valued at 3,000,000 francs, or £120,000. As fully described in our account of the "Regent," these treasures were stolen from the Garde Meuble in 1792. But the blue diamond was not amongst the few gems subsequently restored, although Mawe still speaks of it in 1823, as "in the Crown Jewels of France ;" and Murray, writing so late as 1839, describes it as still "belonging to the Crown Jewels of France."

Since its disappearance in 1792 its fate continued to be enveloped in the deepest obscurity until the mystery was at last happily cleared, as set forth in *Precious Stones and Gems*, and made further evident in succeeding pages of the present work.

We have already, in a previous chapter, demonstrated that the true original of the "French

Blue" was the "Rough Tavernier Blue," which in the process of cutting and polishing was reduced from $112\frac{1}{4}$ to $67\frac{1}{8}$ carats. The "French Blue," was itself later on reduced by cleavage into one large and two small fragments. The large fragment was again skilfully manipulated, so as still further to disguise its origin, and is now known as the "Hope Blue," weighing $44\frac{1}{4}$ carats. Of this stone the two smaller fragments form the compliment. One of them fell into the hands of the Duke of Brunswick, and was disposed of at the sale of his effects which took place at Geneva in April, 1874. The purchasers were Messrs. Ochs Brothers, of Paris, who obtained it for 17,000 francs, or £680. It weighs $13\frac{3}{4}$ carats.* The third fragment has lately been seen and examined by ourselves. Its colour is identical with that of the "Hope" and the Duke of Brunswick's "Blue," and it weighs as nearly as possible $1\frac{1}{4}$ carats. By adding $44\frac{1}{4}$, $13\frac{3}{4}$, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ we get " $59\frac{1}{4}$ " carats, which are about $7\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, less than $67\frac{1}{8}$, the weight of the "French Blue," from which these pieces are believed to have been obtained. The difference is accounted for by the losses incidental to the cleaving of the "French Blue," and the fresh treatment of the several fragments needed to give them a regular form. The full account of the process by which all these fragments have been traced back to the "French Blue," will, as stated, be found in the chapter devoted to the "Hope Blue" diamond.

* See Catalogue, published at the time by Messrs. Rossel et Fils of Geneva.

XLIV.

THE SEA OF GLORY.

A Reminiscence of Persian Splendour—A Splendid Crown Jewel.



It is quite possible that the graphic author of the *Sketches of Persia*, published by Murray, may have seen this notable gem. He saw the "Sea of Light," and other stones, some of which he could not individually examine. For example, on his second visit to the Persian Court, the king, at the reception of the envoy from the Governor-General of India was literally covered with rare jewels. His dress "baffled description." It was a robe of white, a-blaze "with jewels of an extraordinary size, and their splendour, from his majesty being seated where the rays of the sun played upon them, was so dazzling, that it was impossible to distinguish the minute parts which combined to give such amazing brilliancy to his whole figure." The splendours of the Persian Court in those days were on a far different scale to the somewhat "faded glories" of to-day, when the Shah is in danger of falling between two alternatives, a forced alliance with Russia, or an uncertain dependence upon the lukewarm friendship of England. In the days of the Seffarean monarchs, Merv was considered the most important frontier post of Persia; to-day it is almost an outpost of the Russian power in Asia.

The "Sea of Glory" is one of the principal gems of the Persian crown. It weighs 66 carats, and is said to be worth £34,848.

XLV.

THE KOLLUR.

The Kollur Mine—The Kistna Valley—A Beautiful Stone
Cut in the Mine Itself,



AN Indian cut stone of great purity, purchased in the year 1653, by Tavernier, in the Kollur mine, Kistna valley, the situation of which will be found accurately determined in our introductory chapter.

This gem figures as No. 6 in Tavernier's list of large diamonds, and is briefly described in the first edition of his work. He tells us that "this is another diamond which I bought in 1653, in the Coulour (Kollur) mine. It is a beautiful and pure stone, cut as a thick stone, in the mine itself, and weighs 36 mangelins, which are equivalent to $63\frac{3}{8}$ of our carats." Elsewhere, however, he makes a mangelin equal to $1\frac{3}{8}$ carats. Hence 36 mangelins ought to make $49\frac{1}{2}$ carats only, not $63\frac{3}{8}$ as here stated. But the mangelin, like the rati and other Indian standards of measurement, may have varied at different times and places.

XLVI.

THE PEAR AND SAVOY.

Set in Pearls—A Popular Fiction Dispelled—The Pear and Savoy not one Stone—The Shadows of Nadir Shah—Loss of the Pear in Persia.



IN the inventory of the Crown Jewels of the House of Savoy, drawn up on October 19, 1679, the first gem on the list is described as "a large table diamond, set in a gold, black and white enamelled rim, in the antique style, weighing 54 carats, with three appended pearls, pear-shaped, amongst which pearls is the 'Pilgrim,' weighing 45 carats, the other two 38 and 36 carats respectively. This gem was bequeathed to the crown by Queen Christina of France by her will dated April 5, 1662."

It has been suggested that this gem, which we name the "Savoy," is the same as Tavernier's "Pear," but although the weight, about 54 carats each, corresponds, the shapes show that they are two different stones. Tavernier's is described as "pear shaped," whereas the "Savoy" is stated to be table-cut, the pear form mentioned in connection with it referring, not to the diamond itself, but to the accompanying pearls, which are said in the inventory to be grouped

or disposed in the form of a pear.* Until the Italian text of the inventory was published in 1880, it was supposed that the diamond was described as pear-shaped, whence the natural conclusion that this stone was Tavernier's "Pear."

It is further to be noted that Tavernier saw the Indian gem in 1658 in the Mogul's treasury, where it in all probability remained till the sack of Delhi by Nadir Shah in the next century. But the "Savoy" diamond was already amongst the French regalia in 1662, in which year it was bequeathed to the House of Savoy, as stated in the above-quoted passage from the inventory. Hence the theory that the two are one and the same gem must be unhesitatingly rejected.

It is remarkable that both have since disappeared. The "Pear" was doubtless carried off by Nadir Shah, and lost in Persia. The "Savoy" may possibly have been re-cut and thus reduced in size, so that it can now no longer be identified. At all events no allusion whatever is made to it in the subsequent inventory of the crown jewels prepared in the year 1772, and a copy of which has been courteously forwarded to us by Signor Pincone, the present private secretary of his Majesty King Humbert of Italy, heir and successor to all the treasures of the House of Savoy.

It is needless to add that neither of these stones can be associated with the "Sancy," which is certainly

* The words of the text are unmistakable:—"Un grosso diamante in tavola. . . di pezo di carrati cinquanta quatro, con tre perle appese ad esso in forma di pero."

of the same size, but which in its form, history, and all other respects differs entirely from both of them.

Next to the "Great Mogul," the "Pear," was the largest diamond seen by Tavernier when he was permitted to inspect Aurung-zeb's regalia. All he tells us regarding it, is that it was of excellent form, pear-shaped, of fine water, and $62\frac{1}{2}$ ratis in weight. This would make it as nearly as possible $54\frac{3}{4}$ carats.

XLVII.

THE GREAT SANCY.

The Sphinx of Diamonds—Looking Back over Three Hundred Years—In the Days of the “Holy League”
A Royal Debauchée—A Faithful Valet—Important Revelations—Under a Cloud—A “Cause Célèbre”—
Once More on its Travels—An Incident of the Prince of Wales’s Indian Tour.



THIS is the very sphinx of diamonds. The history of many other gems is no doubt sufficiently obscure, and often involved in great confusion. There is generally, however, some key to the solution of the most difficult problems, and the writers of this work are complacent enough to hope that the reader will find more than one such problem satisfactorily solved in the accompanying pages. But the “Sancy” seems to be wrapped in a dense cloud of mystery, defying the most subtle analysis, and impenetrable to the attacks of the keenest processes of reasoning. Nevertheless, there are even here, one or two breaks of light, by means of which it may be possible to dissipate the darkness in which this famous jewel has hitherto been involved.

Much of this darkness is due to the commonly accepted statement, that the “Sancy” was one of the large diamonds lost by Charles of Burgundy, either at Nancy or Granson. Its history thus became

entangled in that of the "Florentine," elsewhere elucidated. Once separated from that connection, and from the Burgundian duke, to whom we shall see that it never belonged, its career, although still somewhat obscure, becomes at least, consistent with facts, and on the whole, fairly intelligible.

The "Sancy" is described as almond-shaped, and originally facetted on both sides, a form and cut peculiar to India, and altogether unknown in Europe. We may therefore, take it for granted that it was not one of the stones manipulated by Louis de Berquem, for Duke Charles. On the other hand, its Indian origin harmonises with the statement made, amongst others, by Louis's descendant, Robert de Berquem that the gem was brought from the East by M. de Sanci, French Ambassador at the Ottoman Court, who purchased it for a large sum in Constantinople, apparently about the year 1570. This French gentleman, Nicholas Harlai, Seigneur de Sancy, was evidently a diamond fancier, as shown by the fact that he also in 1589, obtained another large stone from Don Antonio, the pretendant to the Portuguese crown, as security for an advance of 100,000 livres, which was never repaid.

Nicholas was attached both to the Courts of Henry III. and Henry IV., having been ambassador for the former in Turkey, for the latter in England, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. According to two different versions, obviously of one event, he is stated to have advanced the "Sancy" to both monarchs, in order to enable them to borrow money on its security, for the purpose of enlisting a body of

Swiss mercenaries, as was the custom of the times. With regard to Henry III., we read in *Varillas (Memoirs)*, that during the "Holy League," (1576), formed for the threefold purpose of exterminating the Huguenots, shutting up the king in a monastery, and placing the Duke of Guise on the throne, Henry abandoned himself to a life of almost unparalleled debauchery, leaving the cares of State to his mother, Catherine de Medicis. In his twenty-sixth year he became quite bald, and in order to conceal his deformity, the Duc de Sully tells us that he wore "a little turban on his head, his 'toque' as it was called, which was ornamented in front with a very large diamond. It is added that Henry induced M. Sancy to part with the Indian gem, which had already become famous in the West, ostensibly to empawn it for the purpose of obtaining means to engage a body of Swiss soldiers to crush the Duc de Guise. In 1588 the duke was assassinated by the Swiss guard thus formed, who were themselves afterwards shot down by the Parisian rabble. But the jewel does not appear to have ever been pledged by Henry, for it continued to glitter on his toque when he was engaged combing his lap dogs, fondling his monkeys, stringing death's heads, playing with his ivory cup and ball, or caressing his detestable dwarfs and minions, his cheeks plastered with white and rouge, his lips, eyes, and ears smeared with unguents and cosmetics, while the streets of Paris ran with the blood of his bravest subjects, and his realm was brought to the verge of ruin by the feuds and intrigues of lawless passion and religious animosity.

Such was the murky atmosphere faintly illumined by this glorious gem, while in the possession of the modern Heliogabalus.

From Henry III., assuming the truth of this story, the gem returned to Nicholas Harlai, who, according to the second account, advanced it to the Valois' successor, Henry IV. of Navarre, under peculiarly romantic circumstances. Being desirous of strengthening his army by a body of Swiss recruits, Henry is reported to have borrowed the diamond of Nicholas, now superintendent of finance, intending to raise money on its security. But the messenger charged with the responsibility of conveying the gem either to the king from Harlai, or from the king to the Swiss (for the story is here somewhat confused), disappeared on the way. A long interval elapsed before it became known that he had been waylaid and assassinated. Full of confidence in the loyalty and inventive faculty of his servant, Harlai proceeded to the forest where the murder had been committed. After a long search the body was found, disinterred and opened. In the stomach was found the diamond, which, as suspected by his master, the faithful valet had swallowed to prevent its falling into the hands of the thieves.

Whatever credit may be given to these stories, it is certain that the "Sancy" again returned to its rightful owner, from whom it soon passed into the possession of Elizabeth, Queen of England. We have seen that Harlai was ambassador of Henry IV. at her Court, and the subjoined document shows that he sold it to the British Crown, doubtless during his residence in London. The passage, which occurs in

the *Inventory of the Jewels in the Tower of London*, March 22nd, 1605, thus describes the "Mirror of Great Britain," a famous Crown Jewel, composed soon after the accession of James I. "A greate and ryche jewell of golde, called the 'Myrror of Greate Brytayne,' conteyninge one verie fayre table dyamonde, one verie fayre table rubye, twoe other lardge dyamondes, cut lozengewyse, the one of them called the 'Stone of the letter H. (H) of Scotlande,' garnyshed wyth smalle dyamondes, twoe rounde perles, fixed, and ONE FAYRE DYAMONDE, CUTT IN FAWCETTIS, BOUGHT OF SAUNCEY."*

This important extract, strangely overlooked by all who have hitherto endeavoured to unravel the tangled history of the "Sancy," shows beyond all doubt, that this gem never permanently left the hands of its original purchaser until disposed of by him to the Crown of England, somewhere between the years 1590 and 1600. The words "cutt in fawcettes" clearly identify the stone here referred to with that still known as the "Sancy."

If possible, still more important is the following passage, which occurs at p. 11 of Robert de Berquem's well-known *Merveilles des Indes*, published in 1669. Speaking of the diamonds, at that time famous for their size and beauty, the writer observes: "There are some of extraordinary size and perfection. The present Queen of England has the one brought by the late M. de Sancy, from his embassy in the Levant,

* *Inventories of the Treasury of the Exchequer*, Vol. II., p. 305.

which is almond-shaped, cut in facets on both sides, perfectly white and pure, and weighing 100 carats." *

The "present Queen of England" might have been either the queen-consort of Charles II., Catharine of Braganza, or the dowager-queen Henrietta Maria. But in either case, this passage shows that the "Sancy" remained in the possession of the English royal family till the year 1669. It also shows that the stone was brought by M. Sancy, as above stated, direct from "The Levant," consequently, that it could never have belonged to Charles the Bold. Its owner, here spoken of as "the late M de Sancy," died in 1627, and as he had already parted with it in London, about or after the year 1590, it is evident that all the other De Sancys, descendants of the original purchaser, mentioned in popular accounts of the stone, are purely mythical beings, introduced to make its history stretch back to the time of the Burgundian prince.

We now identify Henrietta Maria, and not Catherine, of Braganza, as the Queen referred to by Berquem. This appears from the subjoined extract from a letter of the Queen Dowager, written while in exile to Somerset, Earl of Worcester, and presenting to him, amongst other valuable gifts, the very diamond in question, in return for the sacrifices made by that nobleman in the cause of the House of Stewart: "We, Henrietta Maria of Bourbon, Queen of Great Britain,

* Il y en a tout a fait d'extraordinaires pour leur grandeur et perfection. La Royne d'Angleterre d'apresent a celuy que deffunct Monsieur de Sancy apporta de son Ambassade du Levant, qui est en foime d'amande taillé à facetes des deux costez, parfaitement blanc et net et qui pese cent carats.

have by command of our much honoured lord and master, the King, caused to be handed to our dear and well-beloved cousin, Edward Somerset, Count and Earl of Worcester, a ruby necklace containing ten large rubies and 160 pearls set and strung together in gold. Among the said rubies are also two large diamonds, called the '*Sanci*' and the '*Portugal*,' &c."*

The "Portugal," of which nothing further is known, was probably the above-mentioned stone received by Nicholas Harlai from Dom Antonio in security for a large sum never repaid. It would thus become the property of Harlai, and may have been sold by him to the English crown when he disposed of the "Sanci" about 1590.

But, however this be, the distinct reference here made to the "Sanci," while confirming Berquem's statement, brings the history of this stone down to the reign of Charles II. There is an absurd statement current in popular works to the effect that Charles' successor, James II., purchased the diamond from a Baron de Sanci, while residing at St. Germain. But we have seen that it had passed from the Sanci family just about 100 years previous to that time. James certainly did obtain possession of the stone; but that was either through purchase, or, more probably gift, from the generous Earl of Worcester, its then owner. All, however, are of accord that James, in his turn, sold it for 625,000 francs (£25,000) to Louis XIV. about the year 1695. From the "Grand Monarque" it passed to his successor Louis XV.,

* Quoted by Jones, p. 232.

who wore it as a hat ornament at his coronation. It also appears among the French Crown Jewels in the inventory of 1791, in which it is valued at 1,000,000 francs (£40,000).

But here begin a fresh series of vicissitudes; for it disappeared the very next year, together with the "Blue Diamond," and the other valuables permanently lost to the nation at the robbery of the Garde Meuble. And now comes Barbot's positive assertion that a stone, in every respect resembling the "Sancy" was sold in 1835 by an agent of the Bourbons to the Princess Paula Demidoff for 500,000 roubles—£75,000, or, if paper money, about £35,000. Beyond Barbot's assertion there is no authority for this statement, which may have been put forward for political purposes, in order to implicate the Legitimists in the robbery of the Garde Meuble. Another report, that it somehow fell into the hands of the Queen of Spain, who presented it to her favourite, Godoï, "Prince of Peace," scarcely calls for serious refutation. Both statements cannot possibly be true, and both are contradicted by the fact that it entered the Demidoff family not through a Bourbon agent in 1835, but through a respectable French merchant in 1828, or thereabouts.

Now comes the famous *cause célèbre* of Prince Demidoff *versus* M. Levrat, Director of the Society of the Mines and Forges of the Grisons, Switzerland. After agreeing to buy the gem from M. Demidoff for 600,000 francs (£24,000), Levrat stated that it was not worth a third of that sum, since it had been greatly reduced in weight from being recut as a

brilliant. The Prince accordingly agreed to accept 145,800 francs (£5,830), payable in three instalments at an interval of six months, the buyer placing 200 shares of the Swiss Company in the seller's hands as security for the payment. But Levrat, failing to discharge the very first instalment, M. Demidoff brought the action to have the contract cancelled, and to recover possession of the diamond, which Levrat had placed in the hands of the Mont de Piété or State Pawning Establishment. Judgment was given in favour of the plaintiff, who was authorized to withdraw the diamond on payment of the usual expenses due to the Mont de Piété, the defendant being condemned to pay the legal costs of the process.

The case was decided on June 1st, 1832, in the tribunal of First Instance presided over by M. D. Belleyne. Thirty-three years thereafter the "Sancy" resumed its travels, after all its strange vicissitudes again returning to "the land of its birth," for it was purchased in February, 1865, of the Demidoff family for £20,000 by a London firm, on behalf of the wealthy Parsee merchant, Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, of Bombay. It did not, however, remain long in the East, for it was again in Paris in 1867, where it was to be seen in the glass case of MM. Bapst, shown in the Universal Exhibition of that year, who were then asking a million of francs for it. Certainly if there were as many solutions of continuity in the stone itself as in its history, as at that time published in the Paris press, we should tremble for the million of francs! It may be asserted without exaggeration

that it has been made the subject of more contradictory accounts than perhaps any other historical jewel, the "Koh-i-Nûr" alone excepted. Such accounts serve, however, at least to illustrate the anxiety which is naturally felt to enhance "the rare and beautiful" with a history worthy the intense desire to possess them, and thus to excuse our idolatry.

Whether Messrs. Oulman's expectations were fully realised or not, we cannot say. But in any case they appear to have soon found a purchaser for the "Sancy" in the Maharaja of Puttiala. In the account of the *Prince of Wales' Tour in India* it is stated that at the Grand Durbar, this native prince wore on his turban many fine diamonds which were said to have belonged to the Empress Eugénie, and "the 'Great Sancy' as a pendant."

By a strange fatality this stone has again been thrown on the market. As the Prince of Wales was landing in England on his return from India, a telegram was put into his hand announcing the sudden death of his friend the Maharaja of Puttiala. In consequence of this event, the 'Sancy' is once more on sale.

XLVIII.

THE TAVERNIER, A, B, & C.

The Diamond Bought by Louis XIV.—Stolen with the French Regalia in 1792—A Present to the Empress Eugénie by Her Husband.—“The Golden Fleece.”



OF the twenty diamonds which Tavernier sold to king Louis XIV., and which are figured in the first edition of his work, four only exceeded 30 carats in weight. Of these, the largest was the rough blue, weighing $112\frac{1}{4}$ carats, which we have already described.

The three others may here be conveniently grouped together as the Tavernier A, B, & C.

A.

Of this fine stone Tavernier gives three figures, representing its upper and lower surface, and thickness respectively. He tells us that it weighed $51\frac{9}{16}$ carats, was “white and pure” (*blanc et net*) and “cut in India” (*taillé aux Indes*).

Since Tavernier’s time nothing further has been heard of this gem, which no doubt was stolen with the rest of the French regalia from the Garde Meuble, in 1792. But a very beautiful stone, which we have little doubt is the identical and long-missing Tavernier A, was purchased by the late Emperor Napoleon III. in the year 1860, and by him presented to the Empress

Eugénie. It is described as a perfect brilliant, of an oval shape, blunt at one end, very beautifully cut, and weighing 51 carats, or very nearly the exact weight of A.

B.

This stone weighed $32\frac{3}{8}$ carats, but was un-cut (*brut*). As it is impossible to say what it may have lost in the process of cutting, it cannot now be identified with any existing gem.

C.

Tavernier gives us two illustrations of this diamond, one showing its upper surface, the other its depth or thickness. Like A, it was white, pure, and Indian cut. It weighed $31\frac{3}{8}$ carats, and this circumstance gives us a clue to its identification. In the inventory of the French Crown Jewels, prepared by order of the National Assembly, in 1791, the fourth place was occupied by a large diamond, which was the most conspicuous gem in the Golden Fleece, and which weighed $31\frac{3}{4}$ carats, or within about a quarter carat of the Tavernier C. That they are one and the same stone there can be little doubt. In the inventory, the Golden Fleece gem was valued at 300,000 francs, or £12,000, certainly an extravagant price for any stone of that size, unless this figure is to be taken as the value of all the stones set in the Golden Fleece. According to the usual calculation, a diamond weighing 31 or 32 carats, even of the purest water, ought not to be worth much more than £2,500 or £3,000.

In the fresh inventory drawn up by order of Napoleon, in 1810, there is no separate entry of any

diamond of this weight. Hence it must have either disappeared altogether when the Garde Meuble was robbed in 1792, or else it was remounted in the crown, which in the new inventory was described as set with 5,206 brilliants, jointly weighing $1,872\frac{1}{8}$ carats, and valued at 11,686,504 francs, or about £467,460.

XLIX.

LA REINE DES BELGES.

A New Stone in the History of Diamonds—A Gift from the Archduchess of Hungary to her Daughter the Queen of Belgium.



HIS diamond which, through the kindness of Baron Solvyns, the Belgian Ambassador in London, comes to light now for the first time, is in the possession of H.M. the Queen of the Belgians.* It weighs 50 carats. Her Majesty received it from her mother the Archduchess, wife of the Archduke Joseph, Palatine of Hungary, brother of the late Emperor of Austria.

* "Leopold II. (Leopold Louis Phillippe Marie Victor), King of the Belgians, son of the late king, Leopold I., upon whose death, which occurred December 5, 1865, he succeeded to the throne as Leopold II., was born at Brussels, April 9, 1835, and married, August 22, 1853, the Archduchess Maria of Austria, by whom he has had three children—two daughters and one son, the Duke of Brabant, who died in January, 1869, at the age of 10. . . . His Majesty has visited England very frequently. His 'Silver Wedding' was celebrated with great rejoicings, August, 1878." —*Men of the Time*.

L.

THE EUGÉNIE.

A Splendid Hair-Pin—Catherine II. of Russia and her Favourites—Royal Presents—How the Hair-Pin was Bought by Napoleon III.—Its Sale to the Notorious Gaikwar of Baroda.



PERFECT brilliant of 51 carats, of an oval shape, blunt at one end, and very beautifully cut, this diamond was set as the centre of a hair-pin belonging to the Empress Catherine II. of Russia. When Potemkin became her favourite she made him a present of it, as a proof of her esteem, and to reward him for the great services he had rendered to his country. This man, unlike her other favourites, was endowed with more than mere personal attractions. He had great natural abilities, and presence of mind. Catherine bestowed upon Potemkin for his services, both military and diplomatic, the surname of Taurisschesky.* It was at this time that he received from Catherine a magnificent palace called (conformably to this name) the Tauria, together with the diamond now known as the "Eugénie." The Emperor Napoleon III., on the occasion of his wedding, bought this stone from a grand niece of Potemkin, the

* This name was taken from the *Khersonesus Taurica* (Crimea) which was added by Potemkin to the Russian Empire.

Princess Colorado (who was, at the same time, the heiress of all the jewels belonging to the Russian Prince), and gave it to his wife.

The Empress of the French re-named the stone "Eugénie," and it is from Her Majesty's own lips that we received our information. During the whole of her reign, the empress wore this gem as a centre stone of a diamond necklace, which, after the Franco-German war, was sold to the notorious Gaikwar of Baroda, for a lac and a half of rupees (£15,000). This was the man who attempted (as previously stated), to destroy the British Resident, Colonel Phayre, by administering diamond powder to him, for which he was tried by a jury of three Englishmen and three Natives. He was defended by Sergeant Ballantine. The judges could not agree, and the Gaikwar was discharged. He was, however, after the trial deposed for his misgovernment, and since then the "Eugénie," together with many other large diamonds purchased by him, has disappeared. He is supposed to have hidden them away, in the hope of some day raising money on them for the purposes of an attempt to recover his possessions.

LI.

THE PIGOTT.

The Early Days of the Indian Empire—The Black Hole of Calcutta—The Successes of Clive—"Trifling Gifts"—A Lottery Prize—Sold to Ali Pasha for £30,000, and by him Destroyed—Only the Model of the "Pigott" remains.



THE name of Governor Pigott, connected as it is with that of the Subahdar Sooray-oo-Doulah, opens up a dark page in our Indian history. Mr. Drake, the Governor of the English settlement in Calcutta, with the Commandant, Captain Minchen, fled in the middle of the night, leaving the honor of their country, and the lives of a large body of their countrymen, exposed to the frightful rancour of an inexperienced, illiterate, self-indulgent prince, hardly eighteen at the time, marching with a numerous army, and within a few hours march of Cossimbazar, to seize the English possessions, and enrich himself with the fabulous wealth supposed to be stored up in their factories (A.D. 1756). Governor Drake and Commandant Minchen, possessed of the one idea that self-preservation was the first and only law which they had to observe, came to the conclusion that the Subahdar's army boded them harm, and therefore, that the thing to be done was to decamp

at midnight, to leave Cossimbazar well-nigh defenceless, and thereby to give up Calcutta, with all it contained, to a mixed Mohammedan and native force. This they did with cruel promptitude. The triumphant garrison thereupon drove the helpless foreigners, 146 of them, into the strong room used for the confinement of military offenders, since called the "Black Hole," where seven-tenths died in unexampled horror during the night, and the whole English population were exposed to miseries, in comparison of which the death on duty of every man in the city would have been a glory and a paradise.

The surrender of Cossimbazar was not known to Mr. Pigott, the Governor of Madras, till the 15th of July, and it was two months before he and his council could make up their minds to send aid to their brethren at Calcutta, and then it was due to Mr. Orme that Colonel Clive was nominated to command the expedition against the Nabob, which Mr. Manningham, being one of the runaway council at Cossimbazar, very naturally opposed. Clive, small as was the force at his command, soon recovered Calcutta for the company, and followed up this success by the total overthrow of Sooraj-oo-Doulah, his army and his kingdom. The successes of Clive were partially unavailing, because the Governor of Madras, Mr. Pigott, failed to protect "Fort St. David," which capitulated to the French. In the siege of Madras Mr. Pigott shewed some courage, and the coming up of a fleet, under Admiral Pocock, preserved the town from being taken. The French were driven beyond the Kistna, and the English gained an extended line of eighty

miles along the coast, and twenty miles inland. In these successes Clive had the master hand and the lion's share.

Mr. Pigott, at Madras, after coquetting for possession of the Northern Circass (conceded both by Nizam Ali and Basalat Jung), found he had plunged the whole possessions of the Company on the Coromandel coast into most serious difficulties. He returned to England, and was created an Irish Peer, in consequence of having prudently given up his design to lead the Madras forces to re-conquer Calcutta, in favour of Colonel Clive; and Sir John Lindsay arrived at Madras as governor in quick succession to him. Sir Robert Hartland assumed the high powers with which he was invested, and forthwith Madras and Tanjore were involved in hostilities. Sir Robert Fletcher was restored to the chief command, and Mr. Warren Hastings was brought from Madras, and succeeded to the chair of the Council of Bengal, 1772. The attack on the Rohillas followed.

The conquest of Tanjore was condemned at home by the Court of Directors, who removed Mr. Wynch, the Governor of Madras, and re-appointed Lord Pigott. But Lord Pigott, determining to rule without, and in despite of his Council, was put under confinement by his own Council; and the governor, weakened by the climate and irritated by the opposition, died the prisoner of those over whom he had been appointed to preside, 1776.

How Lord Pigott obtained possession of this gem called the "Pigott" is not clear, and when any

ray of light is attempted to be thrown upon its acquisition, the less "luminous" it becomes. It is pretty certain, however, that he brought this rare diamond to England somewhere about the year 1775. There is no record of the source whence he procured it, but it probably came to him either from his friend, the Rajah of Tanjore, or from the Nabob of Arcot, from whom he admitted, in a letter to the Court of Directors, that he had accepted a few presents "of a trifling value." If this diamond was amongst the gifts, it was certainly no "trifle," for it has been valued by Mawe at no less a sum than £40,000. At any rate it fetched £30,000 in the year 1801, when it fell in a public lottery to a young man, who afterwards sold it for a low price. It passed, in the year 1818, into the hands of Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, the city jewellers, and from them it was soon afterwards purchased, also for £30,000, by Ali Pasha, who forwarded a special messenger to receive it. Murray tells us that its new owner, "always wore it in a green silk purse attached to his girdle. When Ali Pasha was mortally wounded by Reshid Pasha, he immediately retired to his divan, and desired that his favourite wife, Vasilika, should be poisoned. He then gave the diamond to Captain D'Anglas, with an order that it should be crushed to powder in his presence, which was forthwith obeyed, and the beautiful gem utterly destroyed. Vasilika still lives, but the *model* of the diamond alone remains. The too obedient officer bitterly regretted his folly; and the destroyed diamond haunted him in his dreams for months afterwards."

This tragical end of what Mawe calls a "diamond of the first water, and ranking amongst the finest in Europe," entirely escaped the notice of Dieulafait Kluge, and other writers on Precious Stones. All of them continued to speak of it as still in existence, Emanuel shrewdly remarking that "the present owner is not known!"

This circumstance also accounts for the astonishing differences of opinion that prevail regarding the size of a stone which has been seen by no expert since the time when it passed out of the hands of Messrs. Rundell & Co.* Murray gives its weight at $47\frac{1}{2}$ carats; Dieulafait at $81\frac{1}{2}$; Emanuel at $82\frac{1}{4}$; and Kluge at $82\frac{1}{2}$. But Mawe, who was personally acquainted with the stone, and who wrote before it was sold to Ali Pasha, tells us distinctly that, "its weight is 49 carats," and this statement must be accepted as final.

The same writer describes it as "a brilliant of great surface, both in table and girdle, but is considered not of sufficient depth," and is, therefore, also lacking in brilliancy.

Another point remains to be noted. Murray makes the astonishing statement that "the 'Pigott' diamond was brought to England by Earl Pigott when Governor-General of India." Of course Earl Pigott, or rather Lord Pigott, was never "Governor-General of India," though he was twice governor of Madras.

* As Ali Pasha was assassinated in 1822, the sale must have been effected some time between 1818 and that year.

In the interval between the two appointments he visited Europe, on which occasion he was created an Irish peer, apparently about the year 1775. Hence it must have been about this time that he brought the diamond to Europe ; for his second tenure of office' as is well known, ended fatally, another mournful instance of the strange and relentless destiny which has so frequently followed in the wake of these fascinating but ill-omened gems. Thornton, in his *History of the British Empire in India*, thus relates the circumstances :—

“ At this time a man notorious in the history of the British connection with the Nabob of Arcot, first became conspicuous. The Nabob had hinted that if he was dispossessed of Tanjore, his ability to discharge the debts owing by him to British subjects would be seriously affected. A civil servant of the Company, named Paul Benfield intimated that he held assignments on the revenues of Tanjore for vast sums lent by him to the Nabob, and other assignments on the growing crops for large sums lent to individuals. These allegations were more than suspicious. It was not to be supposed that Benfield brought with him to India any wealth, and he had there enjoyed no opportunity of honestly amassing any. The governor properly demanded some evidence that the claims were just ; but none was offered that could satisfy any one not previously prepared to be satisfied. A majority of the members of the Government determined against the claims ; but to whatever cause it may be attributed, a change took place, and the Board reversed their own decision by determining

that the crop sown during the Nabob's possession was his property ; and that the alleged assignments of the Nabob to Benfield gave to his demands the character of public claims. The governor had strenuously opposed these conclusions ; but his opinion was disregarded.

“ This struggle was succeeded by another. A British resident was to be appointed for Tanjore. Lord Pigott proposed Mr. Russell, a civil servant, the majority of the Board supported Colonel Stuart, second in command at Madras. The question was violently debated at several meetings, the governor refused his signature to the papers necessary to carry into effect the will of his opponents, and at length the latter determined to act without it. The governor was equally bent upon maintaining his own rights, and upon two members of the Board affixing their signatures to a paper to which his had been refused, he charged them with acting in a manner subversive of the authority of the government. The persons constituting the former majority now seceded and having forwarded a protest against the conduct of Lord Pigott, assumed to themselves the right of the government. This was followed by the governor declaring all the refractory members suspended, and ordering Sir Robert Fletcher, the commander-in-chief, into arrest, for the purpose of being brought to trial by a court-martial.

“ The adverse party followed the example of their chief with no slow nor indecisive steps. They determined to arrest him, and on August 24th, 1776, the Governor of Madras became the prisoner of

certain members of his own council. He appealed to Sir Edward Hughes, the admiral commanding the squadron in the roads, for protection, and the admiral demanded that safe conduct to the ships should be given him. The ruling body inquired whether Sir Edward would be responsible for Lord Pigott if the request was complied with. The admiral answered that he tendered the requisition in the king's name, and would make no terms. The acting council replied that they had no proof that the Crown empowered its officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in such a situation as that of Lord Pigott, from under the authority of the Company's government, and the admiral rejoined that the case was unexampled, that he had done his duty in making the requisition, and must leave those who had resisted it to meet the consequences. One of these consequences was lamentable. The constitution of Lord Pigott, impaired by age and an Indian climate, sank under the irritation to which he had been exposed, and the restraint to which he was subjected, and he died, the prisoner of those over whom he had been appointed to preside."

This was in the year 1777, and as his death took place in India, if the stone was brought to England by Lord Pigott himself, it must have been on the occasion of his return to Europe a short time previously.

LII.

THE THREE TABLES.

An Ancient Form of Diamond Cutting—Famous Gems that have Disappeared.



THESE are mentioned by Tavernier amongst the treasures of Aureng-zeb, seen by him in 1665. The reference to them as well as to the already described “Pear,” occurs in the subjoined passage (II. p. 227): “After having well contemplated this great stone (the ‘Great Mogul’), and returned it to Akel-Khan, he showed me another pear-shaped diamond, of very good form and fine water, with *three other diamonds, table-shaped, two of them flawless* (nets), *and the third with some little black specks* (de petits points noir). Each weighs fifty-five to sixty ratis, and the pear sixty-two and a half.” Their weight would therefore be on Tavernier’s scale of reduction, from $48\frac{1}{8}$ to $52\frac{1}{2}$ carats, as indicated in our *tabulated scheme* p. 320.

Although the table * appears to have been the original cut of the diamond, this form is now so seldom used, that specimens have become extremely rare. Besides the three here described, the only others of any size known to us are the “Great Table,” which

* The technical name of the table is *lasque*, and small slabs in this form are still used for covering miniatures, and are then called portrait stones.

has disappeared, and the "Russian Table," weighing 68 carats. The table style was practically superseded in the West, by the introduction of the rose-cut in the year 1520. The still more perfect brilliant form, invented by Vincenzio Peruzzi, of Venice, came into use during the reign of Louis XIII. of France, and is now universally adopted, except in the case of circular stones, for which the rose is the most effective style.

None of the "Three Tables" seen by Tavernier have since been traced, nor have any stones answering to their description ever been seen in Europe. They were probably carried off by Nadir Shah, after the sack of Delhi, and may some day again come to light in Persia or Afghanistan.

LIII.

THE DRESDEN GREEN.

One of the Rarest Diamonds in the World—A Comparatively Small Gem Valued at £30,000.



HIS gem is the largest in the “Green Vaults” of Dresden, and owing to its peculiar green tint, one of the rarest diamonds in the world. This rare stone weighs $48\frac{1}{2}$ carats. It is probably of Indian origin, but nothing seems to be known of its antecedents. It is valued, according to Kluge, at 200,000 thalers (£30,000), a very large sum for a stone of such a small size, but accounted for by its unique character. Mr. Streeter has, or had lately, on sale a small red diamond, altogether unique of its kind, for which £1,000 was asked, although it weighed only three-quarters of a carat.

LIV.

THE BANIAN.

Astute Dealers—"The Banian Removes his Turban"—Rapid Business.



HIS stone was bought from a Banian or Indian trader by Tavernier at the Raulconda mine, and sold by him to a Dutch captain on his return to Surat. He gives us an interesting account of the circumstances attending its purchase. "One day towards the evening a badly dressed Banian with only a girdle round his body, and a shabby kerchief on his head, came and politely accosted me, taking his seat by my side. In this country no attention is paid to dress, and many with nothing but a dirty cloth round their loins, occasionally contrive to hide away a good parcel of diamonds. . . . After some time, he asked me, through my interpreter, whether I wished to purchase a few rubies, and drew out about twenty ruby rings from his girdle. After examining them carefully I told him they were too small for my purpose. But remembering a commission I had received from a lady in Ispahan to procure her a ruby ring of about 100 crowns, I bought one of these for some 400 francs. I knew very well it was only worth 300, but I gladly

risked the difference in the belief that he had not come merely to dispose of those rubies, and because I saw from his manner that he wanted to be alone with me in order to show me something better. As the time of prayer for the Mohammedans was drawing near, three of the attendants given to me by the governor went off, and I sent away the fourth to procure some bread, which is scarce in those parts. Being thus alone with me and my interpreter, the Banian, with great ceremony, removed his turban, and unbound his hair, which, according to the fashion, was tied up on his head. Then I saw him take from his hair a little bit of linen in which was wrapped a diamond weighing $48\frac{1}{2}$ of our carats, of fine water, and cabochon cut,* three-fourths of the stone pure, except a small patch (chevron) on one side, which seemed to penetrate a little into the stone. The other quarter was all flaws and red flecks (*points rouges*).

“As I was examining the stone with great attention, the Banian said, ‘Do not trouble to look at it now. You will see it at your leisure to-morrow morning when you are alone. When a fourth of the day has passed (for thus they reckon the time) you will find me outside the town, and if you want the stone, you will bring the money, and he then told me

* This is a very remarkable statement, for, as far as we are aware it is the only instance on record of a diamond cut in *cabochon* form. Indeed we cannot but suspect some mistake on the part of the writer, who has probably used the expression carelessly for *rose cut*, the usual Indian style. The peculiar crystal of the diamond we fancy would scarcely lend itself at all to the cabochon or convex cut, which is the form generally chosen for the opal, cat's eye, and such like stones that have a play of colours. However, the sapphire was in ancient times always so treated, as emeralds and rubies of inferior quality still are, but we should say, *the diamond never*.

what he wanted for it. . . . I did not fail to keep the appointment, and brought the sum he had asked, less 200 pagodas, which I kept in reserve. But in the end, after a little chaffering, I had to give him an additional 100 pagodas. On my return to Surat I sold the stone to a Dutch captain, making a decent profit on the transaction."

LV.

THE ANTWERP.

A Bridal Gift—History at Fault.



THE original owner of this stone was Carlo Affetati, of Antwerp. From him it was purchased in the year 1559 for 80,000 crowns by King Philip II. of Spain, who intended it as a bridal gift to his ill-starred third wife, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Henry II. of France.* Clusius, who mentions the circumstance,

* Philip II. was four times married. The Queen of England, by whom he had no issue, was his second wife. His first was his cousin, Mary of Portugal, and by her he had one son, Don Carlos, whose fate has deepened the sombre aspect of his reign. That young prince, who appears to have been of a haughty and violent temper, was exasperated by his father's refusal to admit him to a share in the administration of the kingdom, though he had never shown any capacity for public affairs. After giving many proofs of a discontented and disordered mind, he was, on the charge, as it would seem from the researches of Mr. Prescott, of aiming at the king's life, and of having shown heretical tendencies, arrested in his bed by Philip himself, at midnight on the 18th of January, 1568. To the Council of State and to Foreign Courts, Philip merely assigned as his reason for so acting, the necessity laid upon him by his duty to God and regard for the welfare of the monarchy. Philip, it was clear, had come, for some reasons, to regard his son with settled aversion, and it soon came to be understood that he was condemned to an imprisonment from which there was no hope of release, and in which he was to be treated with the utmost rigour, and that it was a subject on which every one must be silent. Happily for him, death, in the course of a few months, terminated his miserable existence (July 24, 1568), at the age of twenty-three years. The horrid suspicion that his death had been hastened through poison or other means, by his father's command, which prevailed at the time, has been frequently repeated since, and is directly, though inconclusively stated by Llorente, the secretary of the Inquisition, in his *Histoire de l'Inquisition*, book III., p. 171, &c. Be the manner of his death however, what it may, there can be little doubt that, as Mr. Prescott observes, the responsibility to a great extent, must be allowed to rest on Philip, who, if he did not directly employ the hand of the assassin to take the life of his son, yet by his rigorous

states that it was the largest diamond ever seen in Europe up to that time. This is a remarkable statement, and if it could be depended upon, one which might help not a little to clear up the history of the "Sancy." But, notwithstanding the great authority of Clusius, and the excellent opportunities he had of gaining exact information, this assertion cannot be regarded as trustworthy.

treatment, drove that son to a state of desperation that brought about the same result.—*History of Philip II., book IV., chap. 7.* But the authentic version, which we have related, of this mysterious and tragical affair, has been still further variously discoloured by calumny and fiction. Writers who believed Philip to be the murderer of his son, have upon this foundation formed the superstructure for a romantic tale, of a mutual and criminal passion between Don Carlos and his father's third wife, the princess Elizabeth of France, who was originally betrothed to himself, and whose life, which closed quickly afterwards, is also said to have been sacrificed to the jealous vengeance of her husband. For this charge against all the parties there seems, however, to have been no foundation. (See a full sketch of the career of Don Carlos, and an elaborate, able, and just examination of the whole question of his connection with Elizabeth, and his treatment by his father in Prescott's *History of the Reign of Philip II. vol. II., book IV., chaps. 6, 7, and 8.*) By Elizabeth Philip had two daughters who, together with his son and successor by his fourth wife, Anne, daughter of the Emperor Maximilian II., were the only legitimate issue which he left. In the midst of his persecuting zeal, he had given one purer proof of his regard for religion, and sacred literature owes an obligation to his memory, for the publication of the beautiful polyglot bible, which bears his name, and which was printed at Antwerp in 1569—72, in eight vols., folio.

Philip III. was a prince in everything except the bigotry of his faith, of a character most opposite to that of his father. Gentle, humane, and unconquerably indolent, he surrendered himself, and the whole management of his affairs from the very commencement of his reign, to the guidance of his favourite, the Marquis of Duma, who had been his chief equerry, and whom he raised to the dignity of Duke of Lerma. This nobleman, who governed Spain as prime minister with unbounded power for twenty years, was a personage of dignified mien, and of a mild and beneficent disposition; but as a statesman, though he wanted neither prudence nor firmness, he was otherwise of only moderate capacity, and he rendered his administration injurious to the State by his love of pomp and lavish expenditure, and the consequent derangement of the national finances. He was supplanted at last in the affection of his feeble master (1618), by his own ungrateful son, the Duke of Uzbeda, under whom the kingdom was not better governed, and the aged Lerma was solaced by the Pope, in his unmerited disgrace, with a Cardinal's hat, which he had the foresight to solicit a little before his fall, as a protection from the persecution of his enemies.—*English Cyclopædia.*

LVI.

THE HOPE BLUE.

Models of Historic Gems in London—The Romance of Facts
—Identification of the “Hope Blue” and the Famous
French Stone—A Lovely Gem and a Notable Jewel.



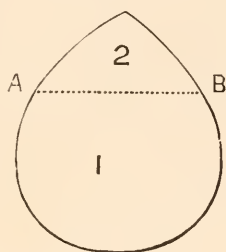
HERE is at 18, New Bond Street a remarkable case containing a collection of the models of many of the great diamonds of the world, the histories of which are set forth in this volume. The facsimiles are cut in crystal and glass, and in regard to the tinted stones, the rare hues of the originals are suggested. In this very interesting collection, gathered together in spite of many difficulties, and with much careful research, will be found the story of the “Hope Blue,” simply told in three parts (we had almost said in three volumes), that once formed one great and glorious gem. It would be a strange story, could it be told, the history of this cleavage, with the details of the several adventures of the triple gems, since the masterpiece was stolen from the Garde Meuble in the stormy times of 1792.

Failing the possibility of our entertaining the reader with such a narrative, we think it will be admitted that there is a certain amount of romance in the very logic of facts which has identified the divided gem, and for the purposes of history, at all events,

re-united them. There is nothing to be added to Mr. Streeter's own account of his establishment of the "Hope Blue" as part of the famous Tavernier stone. It is, therefore, quite in order that we should quote the following interesting passage from *Precious Stones and Gems*. :—

"This stone (the 'French Blue') was, with the rest of the French regalia, seized in August, 1792, and deposited in the Garde Meuble. From this insecure place it was surreptitiously abstracted in September of the same year. What became of it remains a mystery. That it should have really been lost is incredible, and from the sudden appearance of a stone of similar character, the extraordinary rarity of which is acknowledged, I strongly incline towards the belief that it was Tavernier's re-cut, and so altered in form as to render its identification very difficult. This hypothesis, which I offer, receives additional possibility from the fact that a blue brilliant about the year 1830 was in the hands of Mr. Daniel Eliason, which stone came to light without a history, without any account being rendered as to whence it came, and what had been its travels and fortunes. Subsequently I trace it as the property of the late Mr. Henry Thomas Hope, under the name of the 'Hope' diamond. The difference in weight between the original stone of $67\frac{1}{2}$ carats, and this actual stone of $44\frac{1}{4}$, forces upon us the interrogation, 'Was the weight lost simply in the cutter's hands in manipulating the stone, or were one or more pieces removed by simple cleavage and preserved?' I incline to the latter alternative, viz. : that the diamond abstracted

in 1792 was reduced by cleavage, and formed into two brilliants. This deduction is more probable, as Tavernier's diamond evidently had one of the crystallographic faces *largely produced* on the one side, which gave the stone a 'drop form.' This formation is frequently seen in diamonds, especially in coloured stones (excepting always the yellow varieties), leading us to infer that the cleavage plane must have run, as in the diagram, from A to B.



"In the first cutting of the stone the original shape was to some extent preserved, which left an ill-formed, triangular-shaped brilliant, somewhat thin on one side. From this it would have been easy for an expert to cleave a triangular piece of about 10 or 11 carats, thus leaving the stone weighing about 56 carats, the re-cutting of which, as a perfect brilliant, well-proportioned, would reduce it to its present weight of $44\frac{1}{4}$ carats. It is observable that the 'Hope' diamond' is even now straighter on one side than the other, and this strengthens the presumption of the stone having been cleaved as suggested. The late Emperor of the French ordered a model of the 'Blue' diamond in question to be made while it remained in the Paris Exhibition.

"It would confirm my hypothesis still further could the piece or pieces split off be discovered. The piece at first must have been triangular, having a straight side, corresponding with the side of the 'Hope' diamond, as described above. If then we find a blue diamond of drop shape, of the same colour precisely as the 'Hope,' having its base to correspond with the straight side of the latter, proportionate in substance, and weighing from 12 to 13 carats, we have a strong presumptive evidence that the smaller is a cleavage of the larger. Such a stone did actually come into the market in April, 1874. It was purchased in Geneva at the sale of the late Duke of Brunswick's jewels.* The purchaser put the stone for a short time into my hands, and I examined it in juxtaposition with the 'Hope' diamond. It is identical in *colour* and *quality*. I know not how to avoid the conclusion that the Duke of Brunswick's 'Blue Drop' diamond once formed the triangular salient gibbosity which formerly appears to have characterized the stone now known as the 'Hope' brilliant. Besides the 'Hope' and Brunswick diamonds, there are only three diamonds known in Europe that can justly be termed 'blue,' and these all differ from the 'Hope,' and from each other in colour."

The "Hope" is a very lovely gem, of a most beautiful sapphire hue, with an adamantine lustre of extreme brilliancy. It was purchased by Mr. Hope for £18,000, and was considered by good judges to be worth a great deal more. Westrop (p. 4), values it at

* See "French Blue."

no less than £30,000, probably not an excessive figure considering its absolutely unique character, faultless texture and exquisite form. It is unusually thick, and measures $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in breadth, by $1\frac{1}{8}$ in length.

With regard to the smallest of the three fragments, referred to in our account of the French "Blue," and which weighs $1\frac{1}{4}$ carat, we may state, to complete the subject, that it was purchased in Vienna some twenty years ago, by Messrs. Hertz & Co., one of the largest gem merchants in Paris. About six years since we bought it of them for £300, and it now figures as one of the most conspicuous stones in a butterfly, composed of diamonds of all known colours. This lovely diamond butterfly is often seen standing out conspicuously, as one of the rarest jewels in the world, in the London salons.

LVII.

THE FERDINAND.

The Raulconda Mines.—Tinted Stones—A Diamond that Broke into Fragments on the Cutter's Wheel—"Bort"—A Curious Freak of Nature.



ABOUT five days' journey from Golconda, and about half as much again from Bejapoor, there is an extensive plain, where diamonds were found in the 15th and 16th centuries, of great purity and of unusual size. It was known as the Raulconda ; but early in the 17th century, between this plain and a no less productive mine at Coloor, some stones of very imperfect consistency, were discovered, which shattered easily when placed under the wheel. The pure water, for which the stones of old Raulconda were celebrated in all countries, was wanting in this new source of diamantiferous wealth. A yellow or reddish grey was visible in the stones, although the genuine brilliancy of the diamond was unimpaired. However much the geologist might be interested in these peculiarities, which in some particulars characterized many of the findings at Coloor, the mercantile world received the new consignments with indignation, and the king of Golconda therefore deemed it incumbent on him to close the mine. In the meantime, a stone weighing 42 carats was found and taken to Surat, where

Messrs. Fremelin & Francis Breton, the heads of the English company, showed this handsome-looking stone to Edward Ferdinand, a Spanish Jew. He seems to have approved of the gem, and was commissioned to take it to Europe and seek a purchaser for it. At Leghorn he was offered 25,000 piastres for the stone by some Jews of his acquaintance. He refused to part with it on these terms, and took it to Venice, where he determined to have it cut. No sooner, however, was it placed on the wheel and the operation begun, than it burst first into nine pieces, and subsequently into small fragments.

It may be explained that the stones here spoken of are what in the trade are known as *Bort*, that is, imperfect crystals, which, though useless for ornamental purposes, have nevertheless, a certain value in the market. They are used either for engraving hard gems, or crushed to form diamond dust. This dust, possessing the property of extreme hardness, is mixed with oil, and employed in polishing diamonds. Some pieces of bort have even been turned into rose diamonds, and a curious specimen in Mr. Streeter's collection of rough minerals shows a number of octahedral adamantine crystals, grouped round a central nucleus of dark-coloured bort. The mass weighs altogether 19 carats, and was procured from the South African diamond fields by Mr. Streeter's explorers.

LVIII.

THE POLAR STAR.

One of the Gems in the Russian Crown Purchased in England—A Stone of Rare Purity and Lustre.



EXT to the "Orloff," "Moon of Mountains," and "Shah," the largest and finest diamond belonging to the Russian Crown, is the "Polar Star." It was purchased in England for the Imperial Regalia, and is remarkable for its rare purity and lustre. It is brilliant cut, and weighs 40 carats. Dieulafait makes the curious statement that "it belongs to the Princess Yussupoff."*

At one time it seems to have been in the possession of Joseph Buonaparte, who bought it of Morton for 52,500 francs.

* So also Barbot (p. 207), "On cite encore chez cette puissance (la Russie), un magnifique diamant, connu sous le nom d' Etoile Polaire; il appartient à la princesse Youssoupoff."

LIX.

THE PASHA OF EGYPT.

Forty Carats and Valued at £28,000—The Finest Gem in the Egyptian Treasury.



THIS is the finest gem in the Egyptian Treasury. It seems to have been purchased for £28,000 by Ibrahim Pasha. According to Mr. Emanuel, it "weighs 40 carats, is of octagonal form, and is brilliant cut, and is of very good quality and lively." Our inquiries have not led us into any interesting discoveries, historical or otherwise, in connection with this Egyptian treasure. It is supposed to be still at head-quarters on the Nile; but in these days of Eastern changes and troubles, it is questionable whether any one outside a certain official circle can say what particular spot the "Pasha" may be illuminating.

THE GREEN BRILLIANT.

A Relic of the Dresden Vaults—Worn as a Button by the King of Saxony.



IN the Dresden Green Vaults, besides the "Dresden Green," there is another green diamond, which weighs 160 grains, or about 40 carats. According to Kluge it is brilliant cut, and set *à jour* in a plume.* This is, no doubt, the same stone which Mawe describes "a green brilliant of exquisite beauty and great size, but of irregular form." He adds that in his time, or early in the present century, "it was worn by the King of Saxony, when in court dress, as a button to the plume of his hat." It seems to have belonged originally to the Elector, Augustus of Saxony.

* "Eine Hutagraffe mit einem grünen, 160 gran wiegenden, *à jour* gefassten Brillant." *Op. cit.* p. 254.

LXI.

THE BANTAM.

One of Tavernier's Royal Customers—"The Queen of Borneo"—The Dutch Regalia—A Fanatical Pilgrim of Mecca—Fighting and Feasting.



WHEN Tavernier was in Java in 1648 he was a frequent guest of the then reigning Rajah of Bantam, in the western part of the island. Like most Eastern potentates, this king was fond of collecting precious stones, and made several purchases from the French dealer. At one of these interviews he produced a kris or dagger, which he was having embellished in the Turkish style. The handle was to be set all over with diamonds, for which purpose, not possessing enough in his treasury, he commissioned Tavernier to procure as many as would be required to complete the work. But the top of the hilt was already covered, and in the plaque there was one very large diamond cut in facets, which the expert tells us, as far as he could judge, "was worth at least fifteen or sixteen thousand crowns." The king informed him that he had received it as a present from the Queen of Borneo, and that he had sent it to be cut in Goa. But he himself set a much higher price on it than Tavernier thought it could be worth.

This is all the authentic information we have

regarding this stone, which probably passed into the possession of the Dutch, when they suppressed the kingdom of Bantam, and converted it into a "Residency." If so it may be the same stone as that weighing 36 carats, now in the Dutch regalia, and concerning which so little is known. In any case it was very near costing Tavernier his life. He had taken the dagger to Batavia for the purpose of procuring stones for the settings with which the handle, and even the sheath was already covered, but laid on, as he tells us, "without any order, from which I judged that they have no knowledge of design." Returning next morning to the palace, with his brother and a Dutch surgeon, who was attending one of the king's wives, they had to pass along a road with the river on one side, and on the other a large garden enclosed by palisades. Behind these palisades a fanatical native of Bantam lay concealed, watching his opportunity to run "amuck" amongst the "infidels;" for he had just returned from the pilgrimage to Mecca, and was bent on showing his zeal for the faith in the usual Malay fashion. The Europeans were walking all three abreast, and when they reached the spot the fakir thrust out his poisoned weapon, intending to bury it in the body of one of them. But "God permitted him to be too quick, so that the point passed just in front of us. The Dutchman being on my left, next the river, and slightly ahead of my brother and myself, the spearhead struck his breeches, whereupon he and I immediately seized the wooden haft, while the fakir tugged with might and main to recover the pike. My brother,

who was on my right hand next the palisades, and who was young and always ready for a fray, jumped on it, and fetched him three sword-cuts about the body, of which he incontinently died. A number of Chinese and other idolators, who were near the scene came forthwith to kiss my brother's hands, and thank him for having despatched the infuriated fakir. Thence we proceeded to meet the king, who had already been informed of what had taken place, and who showed his approval by presenting my brother with a girdle. For although Mohammedans, these kings and governors are very glad when those gallows-birds get killed, well-knowing that they are a reckless set, whom it is desirable to get rid of." The affair ended in feasting, dancing, and a grand display of fireworks, which lasted five or six days. Being associated with such a stirring event, the stone may be appropriately named the "Bantam."

LXII.

THE HORNBY.

Another Gem unknown to History — Possibly to be found at Teheran.



JOHN MURRAY writes: "The 'Hornby' diamond, brought from the East Indies by the Hon. William Hornby, governor of Bombay, in 1775, weighs 36 carats, and is now, I believe, the property of the Shah of Persia."

Nothing further is known of this stone, no mention of which occurs in any writer subsequent to the time of Murray, the second edition of whose *Memoir* appeared in 1839.

LXIII.

THE HOLLAND.

A Crown Jewel—Its Origin and Character Unrecorded—
Conical in Shape, and valued at £10,368.



THE Crown Jewels of the Netherlands have been augmented from time to time in the past, both by conquest and by purchase. Borneo and other islands of the Eastern seas are supposed to have greatly enriched the treasures of the Hague. Possibly the diamond which is mentioned by Murray as the "Holland" may be a relic of the glorious days of Admiral Tromp, or a tribute from the dusky subjects, over whom Holland still rules in the Malay Archipelago. The only record we find in relation to it is the statement of Murray that it is "of conical shape, weighs 36 carats, and is valued at £10,368.

LXIV.

THE HEART.

A Splendid Trinket—The Royal Turban of Baber—Eastern Monarchs in Full Dress.



JEAN Baptiste Tavernier says that in 1665, he saw amongst Aurung-zeb's treasures, a trinket composed of twelve diamonds, all rose-cut, and each weighing from 13 to 14 carats. In the midst was a heart-shaped rose of the finest water, with three little flaws, the rose weighing 35 carats. It seems that Akel Khan, the crown jeweller, shewed them to the famous French merchant.

Portraits of Baber, a descendant in the fourth generation from Timour of Western Tartary, represent his royal apparel as exceeding in splendour either that of his son or grandson, Humaiûn and Akbar, or any of their successors on the Imperial throne of Hindoostan. All their portraits are noticeable as lacking a "Cydaris" or tiara, or royal turban, comparable to that worn by Baber, which is worth describing. The rose composition in the front contains twelve large diamonds in the circumference, and within this are ranged twelve pearls, and in the centre a magnificent rose-cut diamond. On the top is an angular diamond, of the shape of that mentioned by Tavernier, and surrounded by fourteen pearls ;

these are, in their turn, surmounted by two feathers, at the base and ends of which are pendant pearls of immense size. Literally hundreds of diamonds are ranged in the circumference of the cap, which mounts considerably higher above the head than the whole length of face and beard. Four similar roses are on the royal coat sleeves, and 20 diamonds and 98 pearls, in double row, constitute the necklace and 18 diamonds fringed on top and bottom with pearls form bracelets for the upper arm. Baber's son, Humayûn, wore the same, 12 diamonds with 12 smaller, and 10 smaller pearls with the fine rose centre, surmounted with the same pointed diamond and feather, but except that the turban was surrounded mid-way with two rows of pearls, the "cydaris" (tiara), had no other gems. In Akbar's cap were the same rose and surmounts, and somewhat different necklaces coming down to the waist. The "cydaris" State turban of Jehanghir was adorned with the same star and surmounts, but his necklaces combined his father's single and Baber's double necklace, beside which he had earrings with three pearls transfixed in each. Aurung-zeb wore on his turban the same star with a pearl pendant and surmounts; like his predecessors, his dress resembled Baber's with the exception of the elaborate Cap of Maintenance. Possibly the heart-shaped diamond was either the surmount common to all the above-mentioned Mogul emperors, or the central diamond of the enormous rose trinket worn in the front of the regal turban. That either might weigh 35 carats it is not difficult to conjecture. Aurung-zeb had no earrings. We have seen that the

above princes modified the great ornaments, and that the crown jeweller would undoubtedly have the opportunity of shewing the French merchant on a business visit, the jewels in question. That these gems were the regalia, and not the private property of the emperor will be rendered probable, as Nadir Shah wore the same star and surmount on his very ugly hat, more like Charles James Fox's beaver than a Cap of Maintenance.

THE LITTLE SANCY.

A Mystery Cleared Up—Official History—The Crown Necklace Worn by the Princess Mary of Sachsen-Altenburg on her Marriage with Prince Albert of Prussia—Origin of the title “Little Sancy.”



At the time of the marriage of Prince Albert of Prussia with Princess Mary of Sachsen-Altenburg in Berlin, the bride was described in the newspaper accounts of the wedding as wearing “the crown necklace, *with the celebrated ‘Sancy’ diamond.*” Much surprise and mystification were caused by this statement, apparently made on authority; for amongst the many strange peregrinations of the “celebrated ‘Sancy’ diamond,” a visit to the Prussian “Schatz-Kammer” had not hitherto been mentioned. We are now in a position to clear up the mystery, thanks to the subjoined extract from an official communication obligingly made to us on June 7, 1881, by Herr Smernitz, minister of the Royal Household, Berlin:—

“Amongst the numerous diamonds of the Royal Treasury there is one only possessing historical interest. This is a brilliant of splendid shape weighing 34 carats, worn as a pendant to a necklace, and known as the ‘Little Sancy.’ This diamond was bought by Prince Frederick Henry, of Orange,

who died in the year 1647, and who was grandfather of King Frederick I., of Prussia. Through King Frederick it passed from the Orange bequests to the Prussian royal treasury."

It thus appears that at her wedding Princess Mary of Sachsen-Altenburg wore, not the celebrated "Sancy" diamond, but the "Little Sancy," correctly enough described as attached to the "crown necklace." Of the very existence of this "Little Sancy," the public has hitherto been profoundly ignorant. Nor does it even now appear by what right it bears the name of "Sancy" at all. The explanation, however, is not far to seek. We have already seen that Nicholas Harlai, Seigneur de Sancy, was evidently a diamond collector, and that he died in the year 1627. After his death his collection was no doubt dispersed by the family, and in this way the diamond, weighing 34 carats, would be thrown on the market. Hence its purchase by Frederick Henry of Orange, in 1647, is easily accounted for. A diamond of its weight, rare enough in those days, at least in Europe, would naturally be associated with its owner, the famous collector, M. Sancy, and as the largest, weighing 54 carats, was known as the "Great Sancy;" the other, weighing 34 carats, probably the next in size, took the name of the "Little Sancy."

LXVI.

THE NAPOLEON.

The Vague History of a Brilliant Gem—An Ornament of Napoleon's Sword Hilt.



VERY little is known regarding this beautiful gem, whose history begins as abruptly as it terminates. Like one of those bright meteors, which in northern climes suddenly flash across the starry firmament to be presently extinguished in darkness, it makes its appearance in the British metropolis about the time of the French Revolution, and has already vanished out of sight almost before the close of the eighteenth century. Murray, who is almost our only authority for its brief but brilliant career, tells us that it belonged originally to Mr. Eliason (the same gentleman who sold the "Blue" diamond to Mr. Hope), of London. It was seen in his possession by a trustworthy person, from whom Murray received the few particulars which he has recorded regarding its subsequent history. From this source we learn that it was purchased from Eliason for £8,000 by Napoleon Buonaparte, and by him worn in the hilt of his sword on the occasion of his wedding with the hapless Josephine Beauharnais, in 1796. Murray adds that "it was not a diamond of the first class," although it is known to have really been a very perfect stone.

It is remarkable that at that early period of his career, when he was still only a distinguished general

of the Republican forces, Napoleon had already amassed wealth enough to afford to spend £8,000 on a single gem. Still more remarkable is the fact that nothing more is heard of this diamond after it thus came into the possession of "le petit caporal." In the inventory of the crown jewels prepared by order of the emperor in 1810, there is no separate entry of any diamond of this size. It may possibly have been removed from the sword, and included in one or other of the numerous groups of brilliants contained in that collection. But in any case it must have been sold before Napoleon III. came to the throne, for the Empress Eugénie has assured us that she never saw it amongst the French crown treasures.

LXVII.

THE CUMBERLAND.

Days of Trouble in England—The Battle of Culloden—The City of London presents a Great Diamond to the Conqueror—The “Cumberland” restored to Hanover on a claim sent in to the English Court.



HIS stone was originally purchased by the City of London, for £10,000, and presented to Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, immediately on his return from Culloden in 1746.

The preceding year had been characterised by serious disaffection towards the throne and ministry. Anson had arrived from his circumnavigation of the globe. The broad-bottomed Ministry consisted of the Pelhams, aided by Lords Harrington, Gower, and Lyttelton. Lord Orford had come up from Houghton to advise the king, returned to Norfolk, and died. This year was one of danger to England. A Ministry distracted by internal jealousies and dissensions; the old Tories raising up the smouldering spirit of Jacobitism; France, Spain, and Italy, in its family compact, joined by Holland; Scotland in open rebellion; Prince Charles Edward landing; the clans in arms; Sir John Cope vanquished and routed, and “Preston Pans” rousing the enthusiasm of English chivalry to its zenith; the times were exciting in the extreme. At this juncture, the Duke of Cumberland,

a strong Whig, upon whose support he verily believed the stability of the throne, in the line of Hanover, depended, proceeded to the North, and vigorously prosecuted the work entrusted to him of driving Charles Edward out of the realm, and striking a death blow to rebellion in Scotland. No short campaign was ever more passionately popular than this, which ended in the battle of Culloden. The "Duke's Head" was the tavern sign on every English country tavern, and the common garden flower known as the Sweet William was appropriated to him.

"The pride of France is *lily* white,
The *rose* in June is Jacobite;
The prickly *thistle* of the Scot
Is Northern knighthood's badge and lot;
But since the Duke's victorious blows,
The *lily*, *thistle*, and the *rose*,
All droop and fade and die away—
Sweet William only rules the day.
No plant with brighter lustre grows,
Except the laurel on his brows."

Alas, the hero of Culloden soon fell from his popularity. His habits had become gross, and his self-indulgence, acting on his weakened constitution, made him ungainly; whilst the enmity and jealousy of his elder brother, who envied his popularity and feared for his succession, succeeded in blackening his character. Within a few months (1747), the Allied Army under the Duke of Cumberland was entirely defeated at the battle of Lauffeld, and, whilst this raised the spirit of France, it was fatal to the reputation of our warrior-prince. The attempt to sow dissension between the two royal brothers, greatly scandalized the middle classes, but in 1751 the end of the jealousy, which, the mother, Queen Caroline,

had so injudiciously encouraged, terminated in the death of the Prince of Wales.

What really became of the "Cumberland" is not known for certain (though it is understood to have been restored to Hanover by Queen Victoria, in 1866), as the uncle of George III. was very unhappy in all his domestic and social relationships. After the death of his brother, he sadly belied his mother's hopes and prophecies. It was during the height of his popularity that the citizens feasted and fêted him, and the "precious stone" was presented to him as the fittest exponent of a city's "gloss of fashion and its mould of form."

LXVIII.

THE BRAZILIAN.

An Unauthorized Title—The Rough Diamond mentioned by Mawe.



WE have given this vague title to a stone of which our knowledge is no less vague. All that seems to be known regarding it is conveyed in the subjoined brief notice occurring at p. 46 of Mawe's often quoted book :—

“An individual lately received a rough diamond from Brazil, above 90 carats, which, when formed into a brilliant, weighed nearly 32 carats ; it cost £200 in workmanship.”

LXIX.

THE DRESDEN WHITE.

A White Stone among the Dresden Green—Set in a Piece of Jewelry.



ESIDES its numerous coloured diamonds, the Dresden collection comprises at least one white brilliant of pure water over 30 carats in weight.

It is the most conspicuous gem in an ornament composed exclusively of stones of the finest water. Its weight is given by Kluge at 123 grains, or $30\frac{3}{4}$ carats.

LXX.

THE DRESDEN YELLOW.

One of Four Famous Yellow Gems.



IN the Dresden Green Vaults there are altogether four “Yellow” brilliants of great beauty. Of these Kluge says the largest weighs $117\frac{1}{4}$ grains, or as nearly as possible 30 carats. Hence its claim to a place in our list.

APPENDIX.

The following is a complete list of the Great Diamonds described in this work, together with their weights in carats, in the rough and after being cut.

NAMES.	WEIGHT IN CARATS.	
	<i>Rough.</i>	<i>Cut.</i>
Braganza or Abaité ...	1,680	
Matan ...	367	
Nizam ...	340	
Great Mogul...		279 $\frac{9}{16}$
Stewart ...	288 $\frac{3}{8}$	
Star of the South ...	254	125
Du Toit I. ...		244
Great Table ...		242 $\frac{5}{16}$
Regent of Portugal ...		215
The Jagersfontein ...	209 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Orloff or Koh-i-Tûr ...		193
Koh-i-Nûr ...	193	{ (1) 168 (2) 106
Darya-i-Nûr ...		186
Ahmedabad ...	157 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Porter-Rhodes ...	150	
Turkey I. ...		147
Taj-e-Mah ...		146
Austrian Yellow ...		139 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pitt or Regent ...	410	137
Mountain of Splendour ...		135
Abbas Mîrza...		130
Du Toit II. ...		124
Moon of Mountains ...		120
Patrocinho ...		120 $\frac{3}{8}$
English Dresden ...	119 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$

NAMES.				WEIGHT IN CARATS.	
				<i>Rough.</i>	<i>Cut.</i>
Jehan-Ghir-Shah	...	...	...		1 $\frac{9}{10}$
Tavernier Blue	...	...	...	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	
African Yellow	...	...	...		112
Star of Diamonds	...	...	...		107 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rio das Velhas	...	...	...		105
Cent-Six	...	...	...		106
Bazu	...	...	...	104	
Raulconda	...	...	...		103
Hastings	...	...	...	101	
Star of Beaufort	...	...	...		100
Nassak	...	...	...		{ (1) 89 $\frac{3}{4}$ (2) 78 $\frac{5}{8}$
Chapada	...	...	...		87 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shah	...	...	...		86
Dudley	...	...	...	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
Throne	...	...	...		80 to 90
Rough	...	...	...	80	
Star of Sarawak	...	...	...	70	
Russian Table	...	...	...		68
Mascarenha I.	...	...	...		67 $\frac{1}{2}$
French Blue	...	...	...	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	67 $\frac{1}{8}$
Sea of Glory	...	...	...		66
Kollur	...	...	...		63 $\frac{3}{8}$
Pear	...	...	...		54 $\frac{3}{4}$
Great Sancy	...	...	...		53 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tavernier A, B, C	...	...	...	{	51 $\frac{9}{16}$ 32 $\frac{3}{8}$ 31 $\frac{3}{8}$
La Reine des Belges	...	...	...		50
Eugénie	...	...	...		51
Pigott...	...	...	...		49
Three Tables	...	...	...		48 $\frac{1}{8}$ to 52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dresden Green	...	...	...		48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Banian	...	...	...		48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Antwerp	...	...	...		47 $\frac{1}{2}$

NAMES.	WEIGHT IN CARATS.	
	<i>Rough.</i>	<i>Cut.</i>
Hope Blue	42	44 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ferdinand		
Polar Star		40
Pasha of Egypt		40
Green Brilliant		40
Bantam		36
Hornby		36
Holland		36
Heart		35
Napoleon		34
Little Sancy		34
Cumberland		32
Brazilian		32
Dresden White		30 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dresden Yellow		30

WORKS

BY

EDWIN W. STREETER,

*Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; Author of "Precious Stones and Gems;" Gold Medallist of the Royal Order of Frederic;
Holder of a Special Gold Medal from H.M. the King of the Belgians.*

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